PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCES

OF

THE PRESIDENT

1945 - JANUARY 2 THROUGH APRIL 5, 1945

J. Romagna (PCs 986 to 998)
OFFICIAL REPORTER

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #986
Executive Office of the President
January 2, 1945 -- 4.15 p.m., e.w.t.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I -- I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year. And as I said to Steve (Early), all of you except a very small minority -- (laughter) -- which is fair enough.

I don't think I have any news at all. They probably told you this morning that the Message is going up on Saturday, and the Budget Director is holding a Seminar with the experts on Monday, and the Budget Message will go up on Tuesday. So that's a pretty good schedule.

MR. GODWIN: Some of us don't know whether you are going to take that Message or not. Has that been made public?

THE PRESIDENT: Going to what?

MR. GODWIN: Whether you will take the Message yourself?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am not taking any. I am sending it up.

Q. Mr. President, do you endorse the recommendations made in the Byrnes Report (on Problems of Mobilization and Reconversion) this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Substantially, Yes.

Q. Any of them that you differ with?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Just a question of ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, would you care to say anything about the suggestion for work-or-fight legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q. Do you endorse that, do you, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q. Mr. President, when the Congressional Leaders left this morning they said that you had indicated that you were going to see Churchill and Stalin soon. Is there anything more you can say on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Except to enter into an argument with you as to what the word soon means. And I will give it to you just as shortly as that: anon. (laughter) You will find that they are synonymous, or practically so.

Q. Mr. President, do you think work-or-fight legislation should be limited to 4F's, or cover a broader field?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, now you are going into details. The details are up to Congress, to write the bill.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us about any future plans you have for Vice President Wallace?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't think I have any news for you on that -- today.

Q. Mr. President, in connection with the possible meeting, you told us two or three weeks ago that there were

some physical and geographical difficulties.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q. (continuing) Could you say now whether or not those have been removed and the way seems to be open for a meeting?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Now you are still getting into whether the ice conditions of the North Pole or the South Pole would be preferable on the date set.

Q. The date has been set, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. The date has been set?

THE PRESIDENT: On a -- on whatever date is set.

Q. Mr. President, Prime Minister Churchill was quoted last week, just before he left Athens, as saying that he had had telegraphic correspondence with you relative to following the Germans into Greece and seeing that the -- that the Greeks were fed. Do you care to go into that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except to say that the one thing that seems the -- in a way the most important thing to do in all our dealings with rescued countries is to see that the population doesn't starve to death. We have all been thinking about that for a long, long time. Of course, we continue to think about it.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us something, please, if you can, about your visit with the French Ambassador (Henri Bonnet) yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: Delighted to see him. And he asked

me what -- what he could do, and I told him one thing that I thought he should do -- of course, I have had queries all over the place, and he might as well answer them: he is no relation of the former Ambassador of the same name.

MR. GODWIN: Have you anything that might interest the public to say about this -- the spies that were picked up in New York yesterday, and the possibility of a spy offensive as indicated by those paper balloons? Possibly as Commander-in-Chief you may want to say something more about ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Of course, on the -- on the two spies that landed, it was a grand job to have picked them up the way we did. We think they are the only ones who landed but, of course, we can never be sure; and the vigilance of the F.B.I. and the Army and Navy people is being continued at the highest possible level. On the balloons, quite frankly, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, are you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I haven't got any more information than you have. Obviously, the first thing to do is to find out the origin of the balloons.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That is not always easy.

Q. Mr. President, could you say whether the men apprehended yesterday will be tried in the same fashion that the would-be saboteurs were tried in June 1942 or so, I think it was?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you definitely, but I assume so.

Q. Military tribunal?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, are the Byrnes tax proposals among those which you substantially endorse?

THE PRESIDENT: Tax proposals?

Q. He had three tax proposals in there.

Q. (louder) The Byrnes tax proposals.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, that is a thing that I can't tell you about yet, because the actual details are not yet worked up, but I am in favor of the thing in principle.

Q. Do you know whether Secretary Morgenthau also is in favor of them, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I said that is the thing we have got to talk over.

Q. He authorized a spokesman this morning to say that he hadn't been consulted on them. That is why I ask. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he was consulted on them as much as all of us were.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your meeting this morning with Secretary Stettinius?

THE PRESIDENT: As to who? What?

Q. With Mr. Stettinius?

MR. GODWIN: Mr. Stettinius.

THE PRESIDENT: Did I what?

Q. Can you tell us anything about your meeting with him?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There were two of the new Assistant Secretaries -- the Under Secretary and one of the Assistants -- whom I hadn't seen yet.

Q. Mr. President, the British Ambassador was at the State Department today and said that he has been talking about methods of bringing this country, Great Britain and Russia into closer consultation on great problems. Have you given any thought to methods by which closer consultation could be achieved?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the only way to do would be to have a common capital for all three nations, and we can't have that. We are having very close cooperation between the three nations. The volume of correspondence and telegrams -- letters -- that goes on all the time, it would amaze you.

JIM WRIGHT: Mr. President, maybe you could do something, or tell us something about these many stories and comments editorially of the last few days, about the differences between these countries and how dangerous it is to the relationships, and so forth? That really, I think, concerns a good many people, that trend of the discussion in the last few days.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Jim, I think the -- the thing comes down to this. It's a perfectly natural thing. Anybody that has to write all the time ---

JIM WRIGHT: (interposing) It's what?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- anybody who has to write all the time for public consumption, I am not talking about the press, I am talking about anybody who writes for a

magazine, or anything like that -- or writes a book -- is to lose sight of the difference between the principles -- this is nothing new, I have said it so many times -- and the details. And if you establish principles, they are a guide.

People -- to use an illustration, which is of course not parallel in any way, but there were -- we were talking to Steve, just before you came in, about the Ten Commandments -- (Mr. Early began laughing) ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) All of them?

MR. EARLY: (aside) Just one of them.

THE PRESIDENT: All of them. All Ten. (laughter)

MAY CRAIG: (aside) Steve! (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: And they are pretty good principles, but they are very often interpreted differently in individual cases. And that is the practical problem about peoples of the world, as well as individuals. They are perfectly good principles, but very often the existing facts among the -- in relation to this particular valley, or that particular town, or that particular minority group, will vary from one case to the other. You do the best you can, and Steve agreed to that. You do the best you can.

JIM WRIGHT: Do it feebly or do it well?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

JIM WRIGHT: Do it feebly or do it well?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

JIM WRIGHT: On all Ten?

THE PRESIDENT: All Ten. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, has the decision been made about whether the Secretary of State will accompany you, when you do meet with the other chiefs of ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, you will know about that sometime after we meet. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Had you finished with that parallel of the Ten Commandments?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better not pursue it any further. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: The business that Jim is talking about does worry lots of folks, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- and you might want -- if you haven't finished with that, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes?

JIM WRIGHT: (interposing) I was talking, Mr. President, about that story quoted from the London Chronicle, for example, in today's paper ---

VOICES: (interposing) Economist.

JIM WRIGHT: I beg your pardon -- Economist.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen the story itself, ---

JIM WRIGHT: (interjecting) Well, there were some pretty direct ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- just excerpts about it.

Well, it depends a little on how you approach the subject, whether you want to approach the subject out loud

or not -- in print. There are lots of things that you don't want to put down at this particular time. It doesn't do any good. As for instance, as to -- what? -- Steve's interpretation of the Ten Commandments. It isn't -- it isn't a thing which probably is good at this time to pursue. We don't get much further. It does -- it does fill a certain number of lines, but that's about all. Doesn't get the world much further ahead.

Q. The inference would be, Mr. President, from what you said, that you are hopeful of reconciling what differences there are?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, don't you think there are differences? Don't you think that they are necessary?

Q. Inevitable.

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely. They are inevitable. Some are important. Some are not very important.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. EARLY: (to the President) I am going right over and surrender to J. Edgar. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: As you get older, some of them are easier to keep.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It's a new year, and I like to rub it in at the beginning of a new year.

MR. GODWIN: All right.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Jim Wright, talking to Mr. Early) Jim, what are you doing, congratulating him?

Q. He wants to know which one, sir. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Steve always makes a good subject for conversation.

Q. I don't know how he is as an interpreter.

Q. I hope he interprets the Ten Commandments liberally.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (continued laughter)

(Notebook PC-21 -- Page 98 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #987
Executive Office of the President
January 5, 1945 -- 11.11 a.m., e.w.t.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought you might -- if you want to notify your offices on the space question, that the Message tomorrow is going to be uncomfortably long. You might just as well set aside space for it, those who print Messages in full.

Q. What will that be, sir, about 65-75 hundred?

THE PRESIDENT: More than that. Around eight thousand words. Terrible. I am ashamed of it. But it's wartime. Wartime produces things out of proportion.

Q. Any tables and charts?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q. Do we get any extra newsprint? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Do we get any extra newsprint?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q. Mr. President, have you thought whether you might broadcast that, after it is delivered by the Clerk?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I probably will, tomorrow night.

Q. Do you know what time ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Not the whole eight thousand words. Just a summary.

Q. Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In my position, I am not allowed to summarize.

Q. (continuing) --- will there be any possibility of any advance copies today -- this evening?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe so, Paul (Leach). I don't think we will get it out until tomorrow morning.

Q. Quite a mechanical problem ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, ---

Q. (continuing) --- involved there?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- yes.

Q. Can you tell us, Mr. President, what time it will go up on the Hill?

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Hasn't been set yet, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve hasn't got the time yet.

Q. How long, Mr. President, a half-hour?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. EARLY: The President would like nine-thirty to ten, or not later than ten -- ten to ten-thirty. The networks have not been asked.

Q. Steve, will you say that again?

MR. EARLY: Nine to nine-thirty, or ten to ten-thirty. Not later than that.

Q. Mr. President, have you discussed American foreign policy in this ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q. (continuing) Will you discuss American foreign

policy in this Message?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, something about it. Won't be all the eight thousand words though.

Outside of that, I don't think I have any news at all.

Q. Mr. President, there is some question about our policy toward Italy, whether we are going to feed Italy or whether the British have agreed to feed Italy. Some of the people in the War Department said that some of your promises during the campaign may have just been made during the campaign. Can you tell us anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: (inaudible) -- how much is going in.

Q. Is there a new program being agreed upon?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Absolutely. There is more food going in.

Q. Have you any idea whether 300 grams go ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, I don't know. Two eggs, or one? I honestly don't know. We are getting more food into Italy.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, one ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I suppose you might say more calories. I can't tell you in terms of grams or pounds. More calories.

Q. Mr. President, one question that seems to be discussed in the last day or so, in connection with that, is whether the necessary shipping is now available, or whether that is still a problem that has to be solved?

THE PRESIDENT: Shipping is still a problem, a very great problem.

Q. Still is.

Q. Mr. President, some people seem to think that a good deal of the talk about Italy could be cleared up if the initial Armistice terms were made public that have been suppressed for some time, and they seem to think that the military ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is considered important by the people on the spot, the military people on the spot. There are a lot of people back home who know a great deal more about that, of course -- in their <u>own</u> estimation.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, it was announced on the ticker, within the last fifteen or twenty minutes, that (British) General (Bernard L.) Montgomery has been placed in field command of the First and Ninth Armies. Can you discuss that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. The usual story -- newspaper story. I heard it.

Q. This was an announcement.

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir.

Q. On the ticker.

THE PRESIDENT: You mean that he is taking command of the one -- the First Army, is it?

Q. And the Ninth, sir.

Q. The First and the Ninth, sir.

Q. Do you know why that was done, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Regular field operations. If I were there, I would probably know more about it. Done by Eisenhower.

Q. There is some stuff coming over from Europe that it was done because of the loss of communication between Bradley's headquarters and the First and Ninth, because of the bulge -- Bradley south of the bulge and these armies are north of the bulge.

THE PRESIDENT: I am not over there, on the spot. Don't you think the source ought to come from there -- the news? I don't know why they should ---

Q. (interposing) It doesn't imply, does it, sir, that he has been made ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh, No. Oh, No.

Q. (continuing) --- the (deputy supreme) commander?

Q. Mr. President, has Vice President Wallace written you a letter requesting that he be allowed to become Secretary of Commerce, if a vacancy should occur?

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to look in my personal files.

Q. You haven't seen it in your files? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if I had I wouldn't tell you. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, have the date and place for the meeting of the Big Three been set?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes and No, if that will help you

a lot.

Q. How long does the "Yes" apply?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. How long does the "Yes" apply?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you see, the trouble is I might give you a hint as to whether it's the southern hemisphere or the northern, if I said anything at all. It would depend on ice conditions a good deal.

Q. Will President De Gaulle participate, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: We haven't discussed it at all. Sorry not to be more helpful.

Q. Mr. President, dispatches out of Paris this morning indicate that General De Gaulle has received some communication from Washington indicating that France is going to get a considerably increased amount of war material. Have you forwarded such a communication to him?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't -- don't put it in that way. I shall not have anything to say about it now. Wait till the Message -- wait till tomorrow Noon.

Q. Might expect something then?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Might expect something then.

Q. Mr. President, will your Message say anything about the manpower draft?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. I think I said that the other day.

Q. Will your Message also, sir, refer to possible

new policy on Italy? Dispatches out of Rome ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Wait a minute. Don't ask me any more questions about what is going into the draft. I did the other day, by mistake, say that that manpower was going in, and so I got stuck on it, but I can't talk about what is going into the Message beforehand.

Q. Well, aside from the Message there have been indications that there has been a joint agreement by the United States and Great Britain on Italy, and that there will be an announcement shortly?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what that is -- honestly -- I have no idea.

Q. Mr. President, is there any possibility that other leaders than the Big Three might attend that conference?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Really honestly don't know.

Q. Mr. President, will Secretary Stettinius accompany you to the meeting?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will know that about a week after the meeting's been held. (laughter) Not getting very far this morning, Bert (Andrews). (more laughter)

Q. Well then, that indicates, Mr. President, that the meeting will follow the pattern of the Teheran, Casablanca ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It will follow the 20th of January! (much laughter) Now that's a real piece of news.

Q. Yes, sir. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That's good for a lead. (more laughter)

Q. (aside) It has been written.

Q. Even if it is obvious, what I was getting at, though, sir, is this indicates that the plans for the meeting will follow the Casablanca and Teheran patterns of meetings being held in secrecy while they are in progress?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, when we take the thousands of questions, I could very safely say to you that no two meetings are the same, though I can tell you the agenda will be somewhat different from Casablanca, and somewhat different from Quebec, and somewhat different from the ones here. Every meeting is different, as in natural history there are different species, although most of them belong to the same genus, if you know your lineal theory.

Q. Mr. President, have you decided on any new job for Vice President Wallace yet? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That's like saying the same thing.

Q. Mr. President, was there anything significant in the fact that the British Ambassador gave you a copy of "The English Spirit" yesterday, in view of some of the British Editorials? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: English Spirit? Oh. Here it is. I am taking it with me, taking it with me to the Pole.

Q. Can you tell us anything about that meeting with Lord Halifax yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: We had an awfully good time.

Talked about all kinds of things under the sun.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to comment on the reports that orders are now being prepared to ban virtually all conventions of ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. I read that in the paper this morning. That is the only comment I can make on it. But I don't know. I haven't read it. I haven't seen Jimmy Byrnes since then.

Q. Mr. President, you said more supplies were moving into Italy. Does that mean ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, I didn't say that.

Q. You didn't say that?

THE PRESIDENT: I said something about that would be in the Message, and then I said I would say nothing more about it.

MR. EARLY: No, Mr. President. More supplies moving into Italy.

THE PRESIDENT: You mean are going into?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. I was thinking about the -- the French -- the French troops -- additional troops. Yes, there are certainly more supplies going into Italy.

Q. Does that mean, sir, that Richard Law's mission over here to get more shipping to move supplies has been successful?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't put a thing that way. You had better put this off the record. And it is the true --

the true fact that -- you can write the general idea -- when I went over to Casablanca, I happened to stop in an African port -- west coast, and I saw there a tanker, quite a big tanker about one-third full of oil.

And I spent the day there, and I just happened to ask the question, "How long has that ship been here?"

And they -- local people -- said, "It has been here about fourteen months. We are using her as a station ship for oil for the planes that are necessary -- the patrol planes -- until we can get the tanks put up."

I said, "Where are the tanks?"

"Well," they said, "they are here on the ground, but we haven't got the means -- the mechanics -- to put up the tanks. Just as soon as those tanks are put up, the tanker will be emptied into them. We have been using her as, what we call a store-ship."

And then I started a review as to where all ships were. It was a natural tendency, in hundreds of different parts of the world where you have to have supplies, to use the ship that brought the supplies in as a store ship. It makes it much easier to unload as you need it. Of course, that ties a ship up. She can't make a voyage.

So the British and ourselves went into the question of how many places there were, how many ships were tied up as store ships, and we dug up between us a lot of them. Oh, I suppose we dug up fifteen or twenty ships in different places in the world, and issued orders that they must be unloaded at

once and put the ships back into regular work. Well, the time had come -- that was nearly two years ago -- and the time had come about two months ago, when there were -- everybody felt that there were probably a lot of missing ships being used as store ships.

Well, that is one of the things that Law came over on, in order to use to the best use -- highest use and quickest use -- all of these ships all over the world that weren't being used. Well, we have dug up quite a lot of ships, and that is the net result of what Mr. Law came over here on -- and the use of ships that are going into commission.

There is a ship shortage, although we have dug up quite a lot of ships that were, again, being used as store ships or confined to a small area. And it has been very useful. And it is a thing that, I suppose no matter how long the war lasts, you have to make an effort to see that some ambitious commander in some given area doesn't keep ships for his own use, and put them into the world war navy -- a distribution of them.

So that's about all it was.

Q. Mr. President, what was your personal reaction to the action of the House in making the Dies Committee a permanent body?

THE PRESIDENT: Wouldn't you say that that is really a question for the House?

Q. The House has already expressed its sentiments, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. I think that's up to

the House.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #988
Executive Office of the President
January 9, 1945 -- 4.05 p.m., e.w.t.

THE PRESIDENT: I was looking for a whipping boy for today's conference. I used Steve for it last week. I'm looking around to see which one I would use today.

Q. Got anything to whip him for?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Just to change the subject, that's all. (laughter) That's what I used Steve for the other day.

Q. He's sturdy. He can stand it again.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (then to Mr. Godwin): How is it going, all right?

MR. GODWIN: All right.

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe I can pick you out.

MR. GODWIN: Pick May Craig. She never gets any publicity. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. I know it. May, you can sit down. (she did)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says I haven't got any news at all, and that's the highest authority.

Q. Mr. President, in your Budget Message you foresaw a need for permanent mediation machinery for the adjustment of labor disputes. Is there anything you could tell us about what you had in mind? Do you have in mind continuing W.L.B., or establishing a completely new labor agency?

THE PRESIDENT: The thing has got to be worked out with Congress. Get them to study it. I don't think it has got beyond that stage yet.

Q. Mr. President, did you have legal opinion as to whether you could constitutionally draft nurses?

THE PRESIDENT: Had a lawyer tell me.

Q. That you can?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. The Department of Justice?

THE PRESIDENT: I asked about it particularly.

MR. GODWIN: Under what law, the regular Selective Service law, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you will have to ask the Attorney General. I couldn't go into the legal details of that. I only used to be a lawyer. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Well, would it be a headache for the draft boards? Is it a draft board matter?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Is it a draft board matter?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You had better ask the Attorney General.

Q. Mr. President, in line with your comment in this Message on the State of the Union, on rumors made in Germany, there is a paper down South that has a new slogan, that the only hope the enemy now has is to cause confusion, distrust and suspicion on the home front. Do you have any comment on such a slogan in the newspaper?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's all right. It's true. Pretty good idea.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us yet whether you have got a new post lined up for Vice President Wallace?

THE PRESIDENT: Same reply as last time and the time before. I've forgotten what it was, but it goes. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, among the criticisms of the Ward seizure case, Montgomgery Ward in Chicago, is the remark has been made that it is -- the question has been asked, does this constitute a new concept in regulations of industry by Government in having a seizure to enforce an order of a bureau?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because as a good many people have tried to point out, have tried to make a parallel between it and the Petrillo case, in the Petrillo case they were -- it was the kind of "ditty" that didn't seem to be important to winning the war, and in the Montgomgery Ward case it would. I think they were both findings of fact by the W.L.B.

Q. Mr. President, anything new on the Greek situation? I see that reports -- latest reports are that the offer of truce has been withdrawn by the British commander-in-chief. I wondered if there were any new developments?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard that, except as a flash. We have had nothing, except as -- literally from the other side, but I have had nothing personally.

Q. Is it possible to say that the United States Government and the British are cooperating on the possible offering of a new truce to the ELAS forces?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't comment on it because I haven't heard any word yet.

Q. Mr. President, the Congressional Leaders said that you were aware of a downward trend of American public opinion on our foreign policy. Can you give any more on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- other than what I made.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any more information than has come in on the press services about this operation in the Lingayen Gulf?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing at all. I think you will get some news sometime this afternoon, around five or six o'clock.

PAUL LEACH: Mr. President, General Bradley this afternoon ---

MR. EARLY: (to the President) Is that statement publishable now?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: That news, is it five or six o'clock?

THE PRESIDENT: We expect some news around five or six o'clock.

MR. EARLY: Is that all right to publish that now?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. You can publish that now. I think the news will come down here from General MacArthur. Probably be released out there.

What is it, Paul?

PAUL LEACH: General Bradley, in an interview this afternoon in France, said that the German breakthrough as it has developed might shorten the war, that it has been --

not been a successful operation for the Germans. Have you any information on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I would have to ask Bradley more details. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, Harold Mac McMillan announced last Friday that the United States and Great Britain were on the verge of agreeing to a new plan for increasing aid to Italy. Can you tell us anything about that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. They are -- they are having a bit of a time, I think it was -- oh, what? -- a couple of weeks ago. I asked them to increase the number of -- what was it? -- calories to 300 now.

Q. Grams.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. 300 grams, sir.

MR. EARLY: Grams.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And they are having a good deal of difficulty in getting it over there in ships, and a lot of people have been disappointed because it hasn't been carried out. And we are working on ways and means to get more grams over there, to come up to the 300 a day.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: That's easy.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, sir.

(Notebook PC-21 -- Page 137 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #989
Executive Office of the President
January 16, 1945 -- 4.00 p.m., e.w.t.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: May (Craig), you are the president of the ladies' press association, or are you the ex-president?

MAY CRAIG: Ex-president.

THE PRESIDENT: Ex?

MAY CRAIG: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, ---

Q. (interposing) Political boss.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. The political boss. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: You can still do something about it. If you will go to the Mrs.'s next press conference, she will give you some story, and Miss Charl Williams will give you a story on -- wait a minute until I look and see -- (laughter) -- on the roster of qualified women, which was started by that last White House conference.

MR. EARLY: (aside) Educational.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I won't tell you anything about it. They have made up a roster, and it isn't final -- 230 names. You know about it?

MAY CRAIG: Yes, sir. We asked her to get it, but we didn't know whether she could or not.

THE PRESIDENT: She is getting Miss Charl

Williams to give it to you to give it out.

MAY CRAIG: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Outside of that, I don't think I have anything. (laughter) I had a talk -- (more laughter) ---

MAY CRAIG: (aside) This is a private conference.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I had a talk this morning with various members of the Congress and Senate -- and General Marshall, Admiral King -- in regard to the national service act; and I am sending up, probably tomorrow, a letter from the General and the Admiral and myself to the Committee, emphasizing the extreme need for certain action on the national service act, because we need the people, both in the Army and in production.

Q. Can you tell us what that certain action is, Mr. President? You said you were exercising -- pointing out the extreme need for <u>certain</u> action?

THE PRESIDENT: For certain action -- for <u>some</u> action. Well, it was largely taken care of in the Annual Message, which you have read.

MAY CRAIG: I didn't quite understand, Mr. President. Did you mean national service or universal service, or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No, no. National service, ---

MAY CRAIG: (continuing) --- limited -- limited service?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- yes.

Q. Will that letter, sir, be signed by you and General Marshall and Admiral King, or will that be separate?

THE PRESIDENT: The Message -- the letter will be sent to me, and I will transmit it.

Q. With a Message of your own to accompany it, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: A few kind words. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, you probably know it, I just make the statement, that Philip Murray was a very imposing witness before the Military Affairs Committee of the House today, and simply knocked down national service as a compulsory matter entirely. Does this letter go into any argument about the -- the matter of -----?

THE PRESIDENT: Did he have any alternative for it?

MR. GODWIN: His -- Yes, as I recall it. I covered the hearing. His alternative -- you may not call it an alternative, but it was a better -- a better use by voluntary methods of existing manpower.

THE PRESIDENT: We don't think it will bring results.

Q. Mr. President, have you reached any decision yet on bringing the interim agreements on the air conference into force?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet. I haven't seen it for some time.

Q. Mr. President, there have been numerous reports that there may well be further revisions or additions to that Mexico water treaty over the Rio Grande and Colorado. Do you contemplate taking any action similar to that on the oil

agreement?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q. Mr. President, over the week end, Chairman Connally of the Foreign Relations Committee proposed an interim council of United Nations to handle on a joint basis some of the problems that will confront the United Nations. Have you given any thought to such an idea?

THE PRESIDENT: Not any more than what you know already. I am going to see, anon, the Prime Minister of Britain and the Marshal of Russia.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything new on Cabinet changes, particularly with reference to Labor and Commerce?

THE PRESIDENT: You probably won't know anything about Cabinet changes or not until anything occurs. (sic) (laughter)

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Is that vague enough? (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there have been some reports from London lately, with reference to the War Crimes Commission, that its operations apparently have run up against a stone wall, or something or other. Could you throw any light on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I can. I don't know enough about it, about what the internal workings of it have been.

Q. Mr. President, some of the British newspapers yesterday and today were somewhat disturbed over what they

said was a situation that the Secretary of State was going to Mexico, but Mr. Hopkins was going to attend the Big Three meeting. Anything you can -----?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It's hard enough to comment on the American press. (laughter)

Q. Can you tell us, Mr. President, if the Secretary of State will go with you?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you anything about anything, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, on the subject of national service ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- except the word anon, that's all. Just the word anon.

Q. (aside) Anon or anonymous?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) But you will know after it's all over.

Q. Mr. President, on the subject of national service, do you have any preference with respect to civilian penalties versus a special unit of the armed forces ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think that's up to the House Committee who is handling it.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any comment on the Big Three meeting becoming a Big Four meeting?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, I was a little slow on the "uptake" that time. The Washington Post carried a story this morning -- Washington Post, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MAY CRAIG: (continuing) --- saying that Senator Brewster said yesterday at the Mayflower that Stettinius was to be shunted off to Mexico and Hopkins to go with you. So that was American press.

THE PRESIDENT: That was American press. It shows how difficult it is to control it. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, is there any comment you would like to make about some reports that there was a delay in the meeting of the Big Three?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess it's one of "them" things. Same category.

Q. Mr. President, three years ago you said that baseball should continue as a morale builder, and so forth. We were asked by the sports people today to ask whether you still felt that it could continue?

THE PRESIDENT: If it's possible to continue it without hurting the employment of people, or the building up of the Army. I still am all in favor of baseball, but I don't think that a perfectly healthy young man should play baseball at this time.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any comment on Senator Vandenberg's proposal for special treaties to keep Germany and Japan weak?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we talked all about it the other day, when I had the Committee in, and we agreed on everything. Had a very pleasant meeting, and we agreed to say nothing

further about it.

Q. Agreed on ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What? They agreed, and I agreed.

Q. You mean that you agreed with them, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Did you agree with Senator Vandenberg's ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, and they agreed with me.

Q. Did you agree specifically on the Vandenberg plan, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I said that we agreed to say nothing further about it.

Q. Did Senator Vandenberg agree to say nothing about it, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I just said that I wouldn't say anything more about it.

Q. (aside) Anon.

Q. Mr. President, do you agree with Senator Pepper's statement yesterday, that Senator Wheeler's speech might give aid and comfort to the German people to make them continue on, in the hope that they can stop us from carrying out unconditional surrender?

THE PRESIDENT: Didn't the Secretary of State say something along that line last week?

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: That's what I thought. (laughter)

Q. What are you going to do with Steve (Early), Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. What are you going to do with Steve? We understand he is going overseas?

THE PRESIDENT: Which direction?

Q. That's what we would like to know.

THE PRESIDENT: So would I. I don't think that his -- what do they call it? -- itinerary is made out yet. He is going, some time.

Q. Is his itinerary going to coincide with yours, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, because I haven't seen it. (laughter)

Q. You mean you haven't seen his, or yours?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. You mean you haven't seen his, or your itinerary?

THE PRESIDENT: He hasn't seen mine and I haven't seen his. He doesn't know where I am going, is that right, Steve?

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir. (more laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: It's a good team. It's all right. (more laughter)

MR. EARLY: They've just hollered for the Ten Commandments.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

(continued laughter)

(Notebook PC-21 -- Page 145 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #990
Executive Office of the President
January 19, 1945 -- 11.10 a.m., e.w.t.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Early) gave you out -- about, I think, a half-hour ago -- a story about the making permanent through the Japanese war -- to the end of the Japanese war, certain Boards that have been functioning now for quite a long while, the Combined Production and Resources Board, the Combined Raw Materials Board, and the Combined Food Board. Very interesting thing that they have worked so awfully well. And I thought I could comment on it, because it is worth -- it is worth sometimes saying -- telling two sides of the story.

(reading): "We hear a good bit about differences between the United States and Britain ------"

I don't think you need to take this down. Have you got a mimeograph of that?

MR. EARLY: Ready after the conference.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve will give you a mimeograph of the same thing, but it's still worth reading:

"We hear a good bit about differences between the United States and Britain, but perhaps we hear less of how really effectively they are working together in winning the war; and also in meeting the economic problems of the areas that they liberate.

"Together with Prime Ministers Churchill and

Mackenzie-King, I have just outlined the work the Combined Boards are to do from now until the end of the war with Japan. The Combined Food Board, the Combined Raw Materials Board and the Combined Production and Resources Board provide a strikingly successful example of United Nations' collaboration on some of the urgent and difficult problems of the day."

I might say each day that follows every other day.

(continuing reading, not literally): "The Boards are dealing now with serious shortages in such commodities as tires and trucks, coal, textile, footwear, animal protein foods and fats and oils. In each of these items the shortage is big enough to affect military requirements, civilian needs and relief activities in all the areas. In the case of the Combined Food Board, for example, representatives of other countries also participated in the development of appropriate international programs for certain commodities; like, for instance, Newfoundland fish and Australian wheat. There have also recently been added -- certain commodity committees have been added on the Combined Food Board -- representatives of countries whose supplies and requirements, through the progress of military operations, have again become, or will become, important factors in the international distribution of vital supplies; well, for instance, France and Belgium and The Netherlands and Norway in the case of fats and oils. The requirements of the USSR have been related to the activities of the Boards through the Departments of the member governments concerned with the conclusion of the annual protocols by which the USSR supply

programs are terminated."

I think the new -- the committee called Protocol for this fiscal year 1946 is in process now and will be handled between now and the 30th of June, and signed up for another year.

(continuing reading, not literally): Through the Boards, former occupied countries are being helped to start up their manufacturing because we want to ease shortages in plants and manpower here, and in Britain and in Canada. We are acting with awareness, too, of the acute need to restore employment in the liberated areas, thus minimizing unrest.

"Coal offers a good example of the working of the Combined Boards. It was clear at the beginning of 1943 that the United Nations as a whole faced a serious deficit. The Boards worked out solutions through the appropriate national agencies.

"These solutions reached dramatic proportions. From Britain came expert opinion that production could be stepped up if surface outcroppings could be worked on a mass production basis similar to what we call in the United States strip mining. In consequence, the used machinery market of the United States was scoured for such types of machinery -- some machines, for instance, that had been in service along the Mississippi levees for twenty years were requisitioned -- and a total quantity of machinery estimated to exceed in capacity that used in digging the Panama Canal was expedited to Britain during 1944.

"Most of it has now arrived and in many parts of Britain the operations are under way with the result that twelve million additional tons are expected to be mined before the

end of the present coal year. This coal helps supply SHAEF needs in the Army and northwest Europe as well as those relief requirements for the Mediterranean that can be filled by our present limited transportation.

"The Combined Food Board has proved to be a most useful mechanism for assuring an efficient and reasonably equitable distribution of vital food resources among the various United Nations. On the basis of detailed information interchanged constantly among its Commodity Committees, the Combined Food Board has developed many -- has developed additional international plans for meeting the increased war demands and for offsetting, in so far as possible, the early loss to the enemy of important items. The shortage of rice after the fall of Burma -- just another example -- and other areas of Southeastern Asia is illustrative of the problems which have confronted the Combined Food Board. The Japanese occupation absorbed areas which normally export 95% of the rice entering into world trade. The Board moved promptly to insure, first, that exports from the remaining rice areas were maximized; and second, that such supplies were equitably shared, and wherever possible, rice substitutes were provided.

"The Boards have set a model for economic cooperation between the United Nations in overcoming excessive nationalism and in gaining cooperation between former rivals both on the national and international plane.

"On the American side, the direction of the Raw Materials Board has been, since its inception, the job of William

L. Batt. We owe him a deep debt of gratitude for his part in keeping an effective flow of strategic materials coming during the war, despite the fact that many of the former rich sources for these materials have been continuously in Axis hands."

So, on the whole, I am very glad that the Board -- the three Boards have been established. And chief reason for the extending of it -- two reasons -- the first the necessity of it, and secondly is the good work they have done already. I think that covers Food, and so forth.

Q. Mr. President, has the 1945 Protocol with Russia been signed? About two weeks ago we were informed that it ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I can't quite hear you.

Q. Has the 1945 Lend-Lease Protocol with Russia been signed, the one before the 1946 one you were talking of? We were informed a few weeks ago that it hadn't yet been signed.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we have been operating since the 30th of June. The 1945 one?

Q. Yes, sir. But about three weeks ago we were informed that it had never been signed yet?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You would have to find out. We are working under it. It's all right. We -- we didn't stop -- we didn't stop sending things to Russia on the first of July, that's the best answer.

Q. Mr. President, do you see any postwar use for these Combined Boards?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I wouldhate to

guess. We have got -- we have tried out all kinds of methods and things, and there is no question that the experience gained by them will be very valuable to any work that we have done by the United Nations, after -- after they are set up.

Q. Mr. President, Prime Minister Churchill has announced that Foreign Secretary (Anthony) Eden will accompany him to the -- for the coming meeting of the Big Three. Can you now tell us whether Secretary Stettinius will go with you?

THE PRESIDENT: Why, you had better ask him.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) The State Department, Mr. President, suggested that we ask the White House. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Tell them that the White House -- tell them that the White House suggested that you ask them.

Q. Do that, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: They used to say in the old days, "And the Lord have mercy upon your miserable soul." I don't know where you will end up. (more laughter)

MAY CRAIG: There's another name for that, Mr. President. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, would you have any objection to Mr. Stettinius telling us the answer to that question?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no objection, No. I think that's all right. (to Mr. Early): We have no objection?

MR. EARLY: Don't see any.

THE PRESIDENT: He can answer it if he wants to.

Q. Mr. President, on -- on a question somewhat

akin, the day before yesterday Mr. Stettinius was asked whether we had extended or joined in an invitation to General de Gaulle to attend the Big Three meeting, and he said that that was a matter that only the President could comment on.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there isn't any news.

Q. Mr. President, is there any news on the Italian economic situation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think so. Except that I am still disturbed by it.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, anything on ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) We are trying ---

Q. (continuing) --- a new Italian Ambassador?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Italian Ambassador?

THE PRESIDENT: (pausing) You would have to ask Mr. Stettinius on that. (laughter) I know about it, but I won't tell you. It's up to the State Department. It's on that phase of it.

MR. EARLY: Couldn't be announced, Mr. President, until it was sent to the Senate, in any event.

Q. Anything new on Henry Wallace, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. (interposing) Any ---

Q. (continuing) Wallace?

THE PRESIDENT: What about him?

Q. Any news on Vice President Wallace?

THE PRESIDENT: What about him?

Q. That's what we want to know.

Q. That's what we want to know. (laughter)

Q. What about him after tomorrow, Mr. President?

Q. What's he going to do for a living after tomorrow? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think he'll starve. Now, that's a real tip. (more laughter)

MAY CRAIG: You mean Agriculture?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MAY CRAIG: You mean Department of Agriculture? Oh, oh! (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MAY CRAIG: Do you mean Department of Agriculture?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think he'll starve. That's all I said. Now, don't try to interpret it.

JIM WRIGHT: Well, Mr. President, will he have to live on hybrid corn? (continued laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Jim, pretty good idea. Good corn.

TOM REYNOLDS: Mr. President, this being the last full day of your Third Term, it might be proper to ask if you have any general reflections on what was done in the last four years, and where do we go from here?

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you what I will do. I will tell you a great secret, what happened at the Cabinet meeting last week. Probably a good many of you got -- know -- know of this beforehand, but I was asked that same question at the last Cabinet meeting -- and we have another this afternoon --

and I say that there were three of us there that had probably been thinking along the same lines, cogitating I think is the word. And one of them was Mr. Ickes, and the other was Miss Perkins, and I was the third.

And I -- I -- I sort of guessed that all three of them had -- all of us had come to the same conclusion, and that was that the first twelve years were the hardest. (laughter)

Now -- now you're all buffaloed. You will all try to interpret that, and you will all guess wrong. (more laughter)

Q. Can you help us avoid that error, Mr. President? (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. No, I cannot. (more laughter) I am supposed to give out facts. I am not supposed to interpret.

Q. We could use a few facts. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well now, <u>there's</u> a fact. The first twelve years were the hardest. That is good, you know. That is real news.

MR. EARLY: (aside) You hope.

MAY CRAIG: Well, I am wondering, Mr. President, about the significance of the word <u>first</u>? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: You're worse than Tom.

Q. Tom Reynolds spoke about the last four years. Is this the last last four years?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Jim, you're just as bad as the rest.

Q. Mr. President, is Mayor LaGuardia still "entrant"?

THE PRESIDENT: On what?

Q. You said a few weeks ago that Mayor LaGuardia was "entrant" (on--tran), I think that's the way you pronounced it, and I was wondering if he is still ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. He has come and gone, and I will still see him again very soon. He is taking another "train." It's all right. (more laughter)

Q. Sir, could I take that out of the figure of speech? I wonder if I might ask if the project to send Mayor LaGuardia to Italy has now been discarded?

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't any news on it now. That's all I can tell you.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

(more laughter)

(Notebook PC-21 -- Page 159 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #991
Aboard the U.S.S. QUINCY, enroute Algiers to Newport News, Va.
February 19, 1945 -- 6.30 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT: Three years ago, when I was first talking about the United Nations, Winston (Churchill) said to me, "Where will you put it?"

I said, "Not Geneva. Geneva's unlucky, has an unlucky record. I don't want to hold it in any location. I want everybody pleased."

Although I don't think I will get it, I want to get a building like Al Smith's Empire State Building, just for the records and the records staff, and then have the conferences meet half the time in one of the Azores Islands. I was there once. In front of my house -- I knew a Portugese on San Miguel -- had a great big house. He used to like to take me out on the front steps. There, right in front of me, were royal palms and Norwegian spruce, growing side by side. It's a wonderful climate.

Q. Wouldn't it turn into a resort after a while?

THE PRESIDENT: Not on the little island. I wouldn't let anybody on it. Not even the press.

Q. How did you like Russia?

THE PRESIDENT: Very much. I will give you a story on that.

Yalta was Hollywood and our South all rolled into one. We lived in what used to be the Czar's palace. He and

his family had any number of very beautiful villas in the Crimea. And when the Czar went out in 1917, the Soviets took over all the properties, and they turned them into a series of sanitoria and rest places. And if you were a Communist -- if you needed a rest -- had a bad cold -- you made application, you were sent down there and you would be given a rest period there. The place was always apt to be filled with people. They ran from the Imperial Palace down to the small villas.

Town of Yalta itself is filled with villas, and when the Germans came in and put their bombs inside the villas, and blasted everything inside and then set fire to everything, the buildings were all gutted.

Q. Did that indicate that when they did it they felt they would not stay?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Did they do that when they came in?

THE PRESIDENT: No, when they got out.

Q. What can they do about getting reparations in kind from the Germans?

THE PRESIDENT: Get all they can.

Q. Will they have much to pay off with?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so. Got a lot of German prisoners.

Q. While you were over there, did you pick up any news of Hitler, how he was, what he was doing?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing. I talked with a lot of newspaper men. They were disguised as secret service men --

OGPU. They told me they had no information on him.

THE PRESIDENT: The Czar's palace was full of poor people, as everybody is in a sense poor in Russia. It was full of them up to the time the Germans took over. And then the Germans, before they went out, looted the whole palace. There was nothing left except two pictures in my bedroom.

Apparently the Czar, way back before 1917, was afraid that he would be murdered. He had numerous bedrooms which he occupied, and he used to change bedrooms almost every night -- sometimes in the middle of the night.

The Czarina's bedroom was up one flight. You have probably seen the little pamphlet made up by Kathleen Harriman. One part in this pamphlet proved to be untrue, the part about a secret stairway for Rasputin to go up at any time. There's been quite a discussion between Admiral King and General Marshall as to who was occupying Rasputin's room. The Rasputin story was apparently all blown up. She was just spiritualistic.

Q. Did the Judge (Samuel I. Rosenman) tell you how he had become a denizen of the Casbah -- the Casbah at Algiers?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think he said something about it.

Q. He took in all parts of the town.

THE PRESIDENT: He did.

I would give anything in the world to write a funny story about Farouk and Haile Selassie and, on the second day, Ibn Saud, but I don't dare do it.

Q. We have heard stories of that, about the tents

and so forth.

THE PRESIDENT: I hope they got some pictures showing the destroyer coming alongside -- with the guard lined up the length of the forecastle -- the King, a great big whale of a man -- big proportions -- sitting in a Louis Quinze chair, up on the forward gun deck, upon a great pile of Turkish carpets. Yes, I believe we've got pictures of them.

Q. Do you think they could be released? Don't you think it would be a good idea to show the movies at our annual dinner? They would be the hit of the show.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think it would be all right. I think we have gotten a movie in color.

Q. What did he seem to think of everything?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not even said to Sam (Judge Rosenman) what he said about the Jews. It was perfectly terrible. He doesn't mind the Jews there now, but he does mind the situation of the Jews that come there from Paris, London and New York. He makes all the difference in the world between them. The general feeling is that the Arabs want to be let alone. Do not interfere with the Arabs. Very interesting point of view. He is afraid that the Arabs will be controlled by the foreign Jews that come in. Says there's no way of keeping them in the bounds of Palestine.

Q. What is his conception of the outside world?

THE PRESIDENT: Pretty clever old boy.

Q. How did you lure him out of his country?

THE PRESIDENT: I just sent him a telegram asking

him to meet me.

Q. How old is he?

THE PRESIDENT: Seventy-five, but don't print that. He said to me, "An Arab has no age. You and I are the same age." Now there's no secret about my age. He appears to be, and I think he is, well over seventy. The Minister, Colonel Eddy, thinks he is seventy.

Q. Did you smoke in front of him?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no liquor nor smoking, and I sent Anna ashore before he came aboard. It was a chance for her to see Cairo.

Q. Someone told us in Algiers the other day that you never say how is your daughter or your mother. You say how is your house.

THE PRESIDENT: He started off from Jidda on the destroyer, appropriately called the MURPHY.

Q. Has any ship ever had a cruise like the MURPHY had, with the tents and sheep aboard?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It was perfectly amazing.

I think you can work up some kind of story that won't give offense. Women are taboo. The fact that this was the first time he ever left Arabia is all right. He was wounded nine times in battle. He's quite lame. I gave him one of my wheelchairs. I honestly don't know whether you should mention that. It might be taboo.

Q. Did he ask you for it?

THE PRESIDENT: No, he saw me in it -- said it

would save him many steps at home.

Q. I think that it will do him a lot of honor to mention it.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so too.

This ship was a busy place for two days, with visits by the King of Egypt, Haile Selassie and Ibn Saud.

Q. Was Haile Selassie as colorful and impressive as Ibn Saud?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Did Ibn Saud have his ceremonial coffee server and food taster at work on the food you served him?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't see him, but he may have done his work in the galley. After we got through with my coffee, he asked me if I would mind having his ceremonial coffee. So, in came his ceremonial coffee server. I tasted it. It was "Godawful." I drank two cups, but they were very small, tiny cups.

Q. Did you sweeten it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so.

Q. The coffee in Algiers now is nothing but charred date seeds.

THE PRESIDENT: Why don't they get real coffee?

Q. The American messes had it, but the native people themselves have great difficulty getting it.

Q. Can you tell us something about your plans when you get back?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't decided yet. I have only

just started to write. Sam has done some, and I have dictated a part of it. When I get back I am thinking of going up to Congress, to the well of the House, sit at a table in the well and have the broadcast from there. That would save time. I wouldn't have to do it again in the evening.

Q. That would be a rather dramatic thing to do, sir. Congress would love that.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got any date, because I haven't the faintest idea of what we are running into. We might run into some bad weather that would delay us.

Q. Will we pass between Africa and Madeira?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. How about the Canaries?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know about them.

Q. South of Bermuda? Will we go south of Thirty Degrees?

THE PRESIDENT: About that.

Q. Do you think the submarines that were forced down today were laying for us?

THE PRESIDENT: It might well be, but I have no way of knowing. They got two ships out of a convoy yesterday.

Q. As a result of this latest conference, do you think that there is any real assurance that you can give the American people and the rest of the world?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so, but we have to win the war first. That is tacked into everything we say: that we have to win the war first.

Q. Do you feel that the machinery you have provided is such that it will prevent any repetition of any other general war?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell how many nations will continue as members. If they all continue and abide by it, there won't be another war. This will take care of that.

Q. Do you think that these continuing Russian successes will hurt that work-or-fight legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't been home in more than a month. You know more about that than I do.

Q. Won't it take a pretty big job of salesmanship, once Germany collapses, to keep things going?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. In view of the progress made at this conference, do you think it will be necessary to have any further Big Three conferences?

THE PRESIDENT: That depends a good deal on the (San Francisco) conference on the 25th of April, which is not a conference to do the necessary work, but only to organize. Then we've got to go to Congress to get whatever we need. England can do it by Cabinet action. After that, I think they will have to go to work organizing. Might take a couple of months. We will provide the machinery. Then they will have the first meeting of the United Nations. When or where, I haven't the faintest idea.

Q. Then do you think the Big Three will meet?

THE PRESIDENT: First, we've got to get the

the authority. We will try to get authority to be a member.

Q. You have probably heard most of the Congressional reaction to the Crimea Conference. How does it look to you?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen any more than you have, but it's a generally favorable press.

Q. We saw one -- Wallace White's. It was good -- ran pretty true to form.

THE PRESIDENT: I got one exception. I think I've got it right here. No, I can't find it. Vandenberg agrees to go, but on the condition that he could not be bound by anything that was done.

Q. Would there be any action by which he could be bound?

THE PRESIDENT: He wants to be free to saw his head off.

Q. Stassen didn't put any strings on his acceptance, did he?

THE PRESIDENT: No, sir; Stassen will come back for the meeting.

Q. Maybe you will want to fire Vandenberg and put Dewey on? (laughter)

Q. Do you think Dewey would accept?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q. De Gaulle did not come to see you?

THE PRESIDENT: Did you see Steve's (Early) announcement on that? It comes out about tomorrow, I believe. We are being very polite. Merely saying that he was unable to come

to see me.

Q. He was touring France at the time, wasn't he? Steve has a chance to do a good job over there at SHAEF. They are certainly looking for him. And, by the way, Mr. President, Jonathan Daniels has handled himself very beautifully.

THE PRESIDENT: Really! I had an idea that at the very first conference he got everybody mad.

Q. No, sir. Actually there was a lot of laughter. Most everybody was laughing, though the transcript did not show it. Everybody was sort of jocular -- friendly gibing.

THE PRESIDENT: He will do all right when he gets his feet on the ground.

Q. He was in a tough spot. We had a lot of fun with him.

(taken by Wm. Rigdon, Lt.j.g.,U.S.Navy)

(personally edited by the President)

(those present: Merriman Smith; Douglas Cornell; Robert G. Nixon -- rough-draft copies of this press conference were furnished these newspapermen at the scene)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #992
Aboard the U.S.S. QUINCY, enroute Algiers to Newport News, Va.
February 23, 1945 -- 12.15 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT: The conference hours were not bad. We met in the afternoons, sometimes at four, sometimes at five, and continued through until eight or eight-thirty. It was tiring -- a bit of a strain presiding over a thing like that. You have to keep awake all the time.

Q. We have been studying the communique.

THE PRESIDENT: On the general run of the picture, I think the public was quite right; also the press at home -- virtually unanimously good -- saying it was a great achievement. You get that not only from the first reading but from subsequent readings. It's an extraordinary thing that there was so much unanimity in the whole of the conference.

Q. Is there any one accomplishment of the conference that stands out in your mind above the others?

THE PRESIDENT: I was going to mention that. Speaking in terms of years, it has been nearly four years that we have been in the war, six years the war itself has been going on, and there was little -- absolutely nothing to hang your hat on in those early days. Then every single few months since, we have made progress along one line or other.

This war is globular from the geographical point of view. It involves every nation in the world; you can see the number of subjects that are involved. There has not been a

period of six months going by without some marked step toward a better world. First few months were devoted to seeing that you would not get licked. The military were doing very well.

This United Nations thing goes back a long way -- goes back to just about the time we got in the war, and was based on the very simple theory that we could not have that happen again. And more and more nations have been coming to that idea. We have moved definitely forward without much loss of time. That is why I say there is not any one thing in the conference that stands out. They are all tied up together.

Q. Do you conscientiously believe that the conference can be the foundation of world peace for more than the generation of the men who are building that peace?

THE PRESIDENT: I can answer that question if you can tell me who your descendants will be in the year 2057.

Q. Can we look forward?

THE PRESIDENT: We can look as far ahead as humanity believes in this sort of thing. The United Nations will evolve into the best method ever devised for stopping war, and it will also be the beginning of something else to go with it.

Last year I flew to Teheran -- across Persia. Persia probably is the poorest country in the world. In the early days, Persia was a pretty well-wooded country. The Turks cut down all the woods. It has been a woodless country since. Ninety-seven-or-eight percent of the people of Persia are tenants. Only one or two percentof the whole nation owns land or property. The only part they live in Persia is in river bottoms.

Really, the people of Persia have no money. They can barely get enough to eat. The soil is all eroded -- boulders where there should be fields. There's no rainfall, because it hasn't got absolutely any moisture; sun can't draw any out of the land, and the moisture in the land runs off in a few hours' time. Persia has no purchasing power in the world except for certain things God gave it, like oil. It is neither sustaining nor has it any money to buy things.

Of course, the obvious thing for Persia to do is to improve its own country. Reforestation is the best hope, and the nation then might sustain itself, its whole standard of civilization would be a great deal higher. They could make more things than it could sell, buy many things it could not make.

The same thing is true about Iraq, Arabia, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Turkey. They've got no purchasing power to do anything with. Their only purchasing instrument is oil. Their people are not educated, do not get enough to eat, cannot cope with health problems. We talked quite a lot about this at the conference.

Now, of course, all that is tied up more or less with peace. A country that isn't moving forward with civilization is always more of a potential war danger than a country that is making progress.

I even talked to Ibn Saud about that -- mentioned the fact that I was a tree farmer.

One of his sons -- I don't remember which one -- was very much impressed, expressed his amazement. He said, "I

am a farmer too."

Ibn Saud said, "I am too old to be a farmer. I would be much interested to try it, if I wasn't too old to take it up."

Take the Arabian, for instance. If you want to start a farm, you might build a dam, or start a pond or lake, but it would all evaporate overnight, the air is so dry. But there is plenty of water lying fifty or sixty feet below the ground. Now, if you can keep it below the ground to prevent evaporation, and put in pumps run by oil, you can get it out of the ground and do your irrigating at a very low cost.

This is just an example of how to do the same thing from a different angle.

Q. Wouldn't that be a long-time proposition?

THE PRESIDENT: Growing trees is a long-time proposition.

Q. Do you mean that the conference looked ahead over a great many years?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, we are looking at the human race, which we hope won't end in fifty years.

Q. Is there anything you could say in the way of what new aspirations you have for lasting peace, as a result of this conference?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't think there is anything to add to Dumbarton Oaks. What I am trying to do is add to the machinery which could protect them, and give the people in the many little nations a chance to be heard, as well as the

large nations. I hope in time all nations will be members of the assembly. Arabia is small in extent of population and territory. They ought to have a chance to tell other nations what they need. But it is awfully difficult to handle things of moment that come up through the large body.

All the little nations who haven't got it want this, that or the other thing. They would constitute the security council which would be available all the time, constantly meeting for three purposes: to work out many things, like pumping water out of the ground. That would encourage a larger number of people to discuss matters like that between themselves -- put them in touch with the right people -- financial men -- from other nations.

The second point would be to eliminate causes of friction referred by them through the various channels which are provided in the covenant.

The third thing would be to prevent war, step on war before it got started. That causes a need for force enough to save them from war, and is a project for those best able to carry on war: the five big nations with the greatest possibilities along those lines of prevention, who are to be the permanent members of the security council.

Q. You said you hope that in time all nations would be members?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Do you look forward to the time when Germany and Japan would purge themselves sufficiently to become members?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q. On that line, do you think Germany and Japan in the foreseeable future should ever be permitted to re-arm?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I hope for armament to be decreased all along the line, including even the Big Five.

Q. How soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not a crystal gazer.

Q. But as to Germany and Japan, other than in the foreseeable future, do you think they should be kept disarmed?

THE PRESIDENT: I went to school in Germany under the old Emperor William I. The railroad employees were not in uniform -- wore uniform caps. The school children were not in uniform, did not march all the time. But it was not a military-minded nation then. That was way back in 1888 or 89. I was in school off and on until 1896.

The young Kaiser came in in 1889. At the time I left Germany, the railroad employees all over Germany were in uniform. The school children were in uniform. They were taught to march. And if you were living in a boarding house and needed more coal you would call up Darmstadt, the provincial capital. By the time I left, you were calling up Berlin if you needed more coal. That made all the difference in the world. The government was more centralized. German family life was a decent family life. Gradually they got militaristic.

Now, if a nation can do that in fifty years, why couldn't you move in the opposite direction? Why can't you move in a non-militaristic method?

Q. Until they definitely move in the other direction, do you think the United Nations will see to it they don't arm in the meantime?

THE PRESIDENT: I agree absolutely. That is part of the agreement.

Q. How about Japan, on the same question?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no personal experience in Japan. I cannot answer it by observation. But after all, Japan until 1856 was closed to any outsider, closed for many years -- centuries. But if they could militarize and become a great modern military nation by 1903 -- the year of the War with Russia -- if they could do that from 1856 to 1903, then they can go the other way, too. It largely depends on what leader-ship they have -- what their objective is.

Q. Have you got any idéa that you can tell us, about the occupation of Germany? Do you favor a long-term occupation by American troops?

THE PRESIDENT: I suggest that the first thing for us to do is to win the war. We cannot crystal-gaze. We have not won the war yet.

There hasn't been any announcement of the different zones that the various forces will occupy. I don't know whether the original zoning plan was announced yet or not.

The original zoning plan was, roughly -- this is old, not true now -- was that Russia would occupy Eastern Germany, England would occupy Western and Northwestern Germany, and that we would occupy the area from the turn of the Rhine at

Mainz, south to and including Baden, Bavaria and Wurtenburg, with a supply corridor to the sea at Bremen. But that was complicated, and has not yet been settled.

We talked about having the French come in for a zone. The delineation of this zone would change either our zone or the British. The French will be consulted before it is finally settled.

Q. Do you anticipate a Pacific Conference this year?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Only the one of the 25th of April.

Q. I wondered if you were looking forward to a meeting with Chiang and the Prime Minister later in the year?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. I will probably go out on the 25th of April, or at the end of the conference. Just to say "howdy do," that is all.

Q. Do you think there is any chance the Prime Minister will come?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I will only be acting as host. I do not want to project myself into that conference. It is a United Nations conference.

Q. Will Russia be asked to come into any talks of the Pacific problems, before the defeat of Germany?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q. As far as the record stands now, they have not been asked?

THE PRESIDENT: Nobody has. I won't go into that now.

Q. What prompted that question was your latest conference with the Prime Minister at Alexandria, the story about British promise of help against Japan.

THE PRESIDENT: Somebody wrote that story. It was wrong. The talk was not on that.

Q. You know who wrote that? Stephen T. Early!

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, he had to fill up space, eh?

Q. Like a columnist, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: At the last conference with Churchill in Quebec, we talked about it. He said emphatically that Britain would do all it could to help us against Japan. She had already sent a large number of ships to the Pacific. I don't know just where they are, but they are there.

Q. Why aren't we using those Italian battleships that were anchored near the QUINCY?

THE PRESIDENT: They are two lovely new ships, but who wants them I don't know. They are in perfectly good shape -- carry 15" guns. I wanted to use them to transfer food between North Africa and Italy. Nobody in any Navy agreed with me. In other words, I regard them as "bottoms," the Navy regards them as battleships.

Q. In the meantime, what happens to them?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I am going to take that up when I get home. They are perfectly good ships.

Q. Would we be permitted to say you went over and back in the QUINCY?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Can we say you were in a cruiser?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q. We were permitted to tell that on the Pacific trip.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose it will be all right to say a naval vessel. What about it, Bill (Admiral Leahy)?

ADMIRAL LEAHY: I think it would be all right, Mr. President, to say a cruiser. I cannot see any objection to that. But do not use the name of the ship.

Q. I've noticed comment from the States about the close work between the three military staffs at the conference. Have the Russians been brought into the Combined Chiefs of Staff?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes and No. The situation is, Russia will be in any discussions affecting her troops, but not in anything against Japan. They will have nothing to do with anything in the Pacific. It is an obvious fact that Russia has been neutral, and we will respect that neutrality.

Q. They have a non-aggression pact with Japan that comes up for renewal soon. Somebody said it was to be brought up at San Francisco.

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, it's purely speculative. I don't think anybody mentioned that fact once.

Q. Can you say anything about the importance of the Pacific War? The American people have been wholly preoccupied with the war in Europe -- the Russian drive, and the

Western Front. Do you think the country realizes they face a long, hard war in the Pacific?

THE PRESIDENT: That's a hard thing to say. They blow hot and then cold. A certain element, particularly the Hearst press, for example, are still yelling about us using the wrong strategy, that we should take the American troops out of Germany and put them in the Pacific.

But our strategy is clear: first clean up Germany, and then go after Japan just as hard as we and the British can possibly do so.

We are either hot or cold. I think it is important to emphasize that industrially at home. Yes, a lot of people will feel that the war is won when Germany collapses. Of course, it's not true.

Q. Have you decided yet on the day that you will go before Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I get in Wednesday morning. I should think Friday, as a guess. You know about poor old "Pa."

Q. Has there been any decision on the funeral?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably the day we get back.

Q. Do you know whether there will be a funeral service at the White House by any chance?

THE PRESIDENT: I will give you a story on that, to go out the night we get through the Capes. The present plan is to have the interment service at Arlington that morning. That will be the interment service. They will have a High Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral. What day that will be, I don't

know. I will attend the interment service.

Q. That will be Wednesday, the day we get in?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. When will we be able to transmit that story?

THE PRESIDENT: As soon as we get through the Capes.

Q. Will there be any prior announcement of his death?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that Frances (Nash Watson) and (Jonathan) Daniels will release a short announcement about it, about the time we get through the Capes, maybe in time for the evening papers.

Q. Will we be permitted to announce your plans of your going up to Congress in the story?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but no specific date. I want to have a talk with the Congressional people first. It'll probably be a joint session. I am fairly certain it will be Friday some time. I don't know what time. They may want it in the morning, or around noon.

Q. Would it be safe for us to say that?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess so.

Q. Doesn't your schedule of meetings with Mr. Churchill run one about every three to six months?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think that's about right.

Q. Going back to Quebec next summer?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

I saw one story from London that the "Mrs." and I are going back over there. It would be after this United Nations

was finished.

Q. The French newspapers, and later the Paris radio stations, broadcast a story that you were going to see De Gaulle very soon. Have you asked him to come over to Pennsylvania Avenue?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no plans on it at all. I read only what you read. If you say anything on it, say I would be glad to see him at any time.

Right off the record, the poor, dear man, I am inclined to think, has no knowledge of what to do. It was a very bad break for him. Not from my point, but from his. He was all tied up in engagements.

Q. The people in Algiers were certainly anxious for you to meet.

THE PRESIDENT: Reading from old papers this morning, when Paris broke the story that De Gaulle was going to be invited to the Conference, they followed that up with several stories of how France had been at the Conference, a third story that De Gaulle had been invited, a fourth story was that France would be invited, and a fifth story that De Gaulle would not agree to go, if he was invited at the last moment.

Q. Do you recall when was the last time you appeared in person before Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: Last year.

Q. Are you sure it was last year? Wasn't it just before you went to Casablanca?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. De Gaulle has announced that French Indo-China is to be soon liberated. By whom, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: This is very much off the record. For two whole years I have been terribly worried about Indo-China. I talked to Chiang Kai-shek in Cairo, Stalin in Teheran. They both agreed with me. The French have been in there some hundred years. The Indo-Chinese are not like the Chinese.

The first thing I asked Chiang was, "Do you want Indo-China?

He said, "It's no help to us. We don't want it. They are not Chinese. They would not assimilate into the Chinese people."

I said, "What are you going to advocate? It will take a long time to educate them for self-government."

He said they should not go back to the French. They have been there over a hundred years and have done nothing about educating them. For every dollar they have put in, they have taken out ten. The situation there is a good deal like the Philippines were in 1898. The French have done nothing about it.

With the Indo-Chinese, there is a feeling they ought to be independent but are not ready for it. I suggested at the time, to Chiang, that Indo-China be set up under a trusteeship -- have a Frenchman, one or two Indo-Chinese, and a Chinese and a Russian because they are on the Coast, and maybe a Filipino and an American -- to educate them for self-government. It took fifty years for us to do it in the Philippines.

Stalin liked the idea. China liked the idea. The British don't like it. It might bust up their empire, because if the Indo-Chinese were to work together and eventually get their independence, the Burmese might do the same thing to the King of England. The French have talked about how they expect to recapture Indo-China, but they haven't got any shipping to do it with. It would only get the British mad. Chiang would go along. Stalin would go along. As for the British, it would only make the British mad. Better to keep quiet just now.

Q. Is that Churchill's idea on all territory out there, he wants them all back just like they were?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, he is mid-Victorian on all things like that.

Q. You would think some of that would be knocked out of him by now.

THE PRESIDENT: I read something Queen Wilhelmina said about the Dutch East Indies. She's got a very interesting point of view. I think it was a public statement -- the plans about her islands -- that differ so from the British plans. The Javanese are not quite ready for self-government, but very nearly. Java, with a little help by other nations, can probably be ready for independence in a few years. The Javanese are good people -- pretty civilized country. The Dutch marry the Javanese, and the Javanese are permitted to join the clubs. The British would not permit the Malayans to join their clubs.

Her idea for some of the Dutch possessions is to eventually give them their independence. When Java is ready for

independence, give her help and make her a member of a federation. Sumatra the same.

I asked her, "What about Borneo?"

She said, "We don't talk about that very much. They are still head-hunters. It might be one hundred years before we could educate and civilize the Borneo head-hunter crowd."

I said, "What about New Guinea?"

She threw up both hands and said New Guinea has the lowest form of human life in the world, their skulls have least developed, and they understand civilization probably less than any part of the world. British New Guinea and Papua are probably two hundred years behind the rest of the world.

Q. This idea of Churchill's seems inconsistent with the policy of self-determination?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is true.

Q. He seems to undercut the Atlantic Charter. He made a statement the other day that it was not a rule, just a guide.

THE PRESIDENT: The Atlantic Charter is a beautiful idea. When it was drawn up, the situation was that England was about to lose the war. They needed hope, and it gave it to them. We have improved the military situation since then at every chance, so that really you might say we have a much better chance of winning the war now than ever before.

And when I get back to Washington, I suppose people like Krock will write nasty articles about how I always get scooped. That is perfectly true. But I think it is much

better to get scooped than to talk all the time. Then there's the time element. The Prime Minister goes before Commons the day he gets home -- breaks loads of stuff. People like Krock don't like it.

Q. Do you remember the speech the Prime Minister made about the fact that he was not made the Prime Minister of Great Britain to see the empire fall apart?

THE PRESIDENT: Dear old Winston will never learn on that point. He has made his specialty on that point. This is, of course, off the record.

(taken by Wm. Rigdon, Lt.j.g., U.S.Navy)

(personally edited by the President)

(those present: Merriman Smith; Douglas Cornell; Robert G. Nixon; Admiral Leahy)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #993
Executive Office of the President
March 2, 1945 -- 11.19 a.m., e.w.t.

THE PRESIDENT: How did you find the rest of the gang when you got back? Was he (Jim Wright) behaving all right?

Q. Fairly amenable.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. That's fine. That's good news. Jim behaving all right?

Q. He seems to. No bad reports.

THE PRESIDENT: It's a curious thing, I didn't hear a thing from May (Craig) the entire time I was away. She never wrote to me, or cabled me, or anything. (laughter)

MAY CRAIG: I wrote you before you went, though.

THE PRESIDENT: You mean you wrote me up -- (laughter) -- or down, in other words. That's all right.

John (Mr. Jonathan Daniels, taking Mr. Early's place while he is away in Europe), have we got anything this morning?

MR. DANIELS: Not a thing, sir.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have had a good report from the three gentlemen who went for a nice fishing trip with me. They find that everybody is all right on their return. They seem to be happy, and I hope everybody else is -- like I am. That's about the only news I have got. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, yesterday, in -- I assume it was in transposing as you went along in the delivery of your

speech, you dropped out one phrase there about the things that would require Senate confirmation, and you said, "as will some of the other things (arrangements) agreed to at Yalta."

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there is some money needed.

Q. Is that reparations commission, too?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. (adding) Reparations, I mean.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. There are -- they are small details, important to the general picture, but they are small details.

Q. I assume from the text of your Message that you referred to other treaties than the ones that would grow out of San Francisco, and so on?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. There will be other treaties, undoubtedly, that come along like clockwork.

Q. Reparations in there?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I really don't know.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I haven't gone into that.

Q. (continuing) --- wouldn't the ceding of German land to Poland require a treaty such as we had in the last war -- ceding Alsace Lorraine and other territories? In the last war, Germany signed a treaty ceding these things. Wouldn't there eventually have to be a treaty ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) When did we sign our treaty with Germany after the last war?

Q. Well, we didn't sign ours for some time. We didn't ratify it.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) What? Well, when ---

Q. (continuing) The Treaty of Versailles provided for the ceding of Alsace Lorraine to France, and so forth.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what is your idea in the future?

Q. Well, my question was as to whether there would not eventually have to be a treaty ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh, I suppose we will have a treaty with Germany some day.

Q. (continuing) --- ceding the territory which Poland -- the German territory that Poland takes?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. That is -- I hate to use the word the first day I am home, but it sounds to me like an awfully "iffy" question, ---

Q. (interposing) Do those treaties ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- although I am not -- I am not a -- what is it? -- kind of a glass ball you look into -- a crystal-ball gazer. I don't know. I would like to win the war first.

Q. Do those treaties that you said might come along like clockwork, do they envisage in the Dumbarton Oaks plan treaty settlements ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I was thinking of the fact that I was sending treaties up to the Senate every month or two -- some treaty with some nation. There are a great

many treaties with a great many nations. I don't think there is any one.

Q. Could you tell us whether France is going to join in sponsoring the United Nations Conference, or have you had ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I haven't heard this morning. Better ask the State Department.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, in the section of your speech in which you referred to reparations, you -- you said afterwards that the United States had no intention of subscribing to any slavery for the German people.

THE PRESIDENT: Any what?

Q. Slavery for the German people.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. ROMAGNA: Slavery -- slavery.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh.

Q. For the German people. It is said that the Russian point of view is that the Germans should provide labor to build up the destroyed areas inside Russia. Can you give any indication of the American attitude to that in the reparations section?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think that comes under reparations.

Q. What was that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it comes under the general clause of reparations as we all talked about reparations. If I were Russian and I wanted to do something down in the

Crimea, for instance, to remedy what I saw -- there isn't enough labor there -- I don't think it would be a bad idea to get some German soldiers -- ex-soldiers -- down there to clean up all that mess. You ought to see it. I couldn't write about it without seeing it.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us what Ed Flynn is doing in Moscow?

THE PRESIDENT: Who?

Q. What Ed Flynn's mission to Moscow is about?

THE PRESIDENT: Not on the record. The three (press association) boys who were with me know all about it, and it is probably one of those international things that it is better not to write about -- there <u>are</u> such things in the world -- for the sake of one's own country, and of the world.

Q. Is that on the record, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that is off the record.

Q. Mr. President, why was San Francisco chosen for the United Nations' meeting?

THE PRESIDENT: It looked like a pretty good place. (laughter)

Q. What about the date, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: The date was the -- I wanted it -- this is also off the record, there is no use in printing silly things like this -- I wanted it at the end of March, as you know. And we talked it over, and after a day and -- well, they all got together with -- the Secretaries of State got together on the date, and this seemed to be about the earliest date

they could all agree on.

Q. Mr. President, will the Foreign Economic Administration be placed under the Department of Commerce?

THE PRESIDENT: What's Foreign Economic Administration? Who is that, Crowley?

Q. Crowley.

MR. DANIELS: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I hadn't thought of it for a month and four days.

Q. Mr. President, did you talk over the Palestine question with the Arab King (Ibn Saud)?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. Were there any conclusions arrived at?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Did that discuss, also ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is off the record.

Q. No conclusions?

THE PRESIDENT: No conclusions.

Q. Did you discuss the matter with Mr. Churchill?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. And the same ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The same thing there. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, what is the present status of Jesse Jones? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Had assumed right along he is

ex-Secretary of Commerce.

Q. What about the Loan job?

THE PRESIDENT: The Loan job? Why, he was in that as Secretary of Commerce.

Q. So he now has no official connection with the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, just answer your own question. He is ex-Secretary of Commerce, we know that?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: He was then head of the Loan thing as Secretary of Commerce. Q.E.D., what do you say? (more laughter)

Q. Well, Mr. President, I thought he was Loan Administrator in R.F.C. before he was Secretary of Commerce?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I don't know.

Q. Is it true, Mr. President, that Mr. Jones remains as Loan Administrator until you appoint a successor?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Then he is no longer Loan Administrator?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q. Does he know that, Mr. President? (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I should -- I should have asked that question at Yalta. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, are you satisfied with the bill that the Senate Military Affairs Committee reported out on the so called work-or-fight question?

THE PRESIDENT: A curious thing, nobody even sent it to me.

Q. What was that?

Q. Didn't hear that.

Q. What was that?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't even seen it.

Q. (aside) Haven't seen it.

Q. Mr. President, one more question on the Lending Administrator. Do you hope to send up a nomination soon, for that job?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think so. Soon is a very good word.

Q. Will it be a nomination, or will you be able to appoint without confirmation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. That is off the record too, because honestly I haven't looked at that thing at all. I have had a number of people write in and apply for the job. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, while you were away, there was published what purported to be a confidential memorandum to you by General Donovan, to coordinate the intelligence agencies of the Federal Government. Would you comment on that, on the way it was made public?

THE PRESIDENT: May be in that basket. Do you want to go through it? (laughter)

Q. (softly) No.

VOICES: (after slight hesitation) Yes! Yes!

(much laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there have been reports from London that you might visit there after the San Francisco ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) From London, or was it one of those dispatches that was sent over from here for London to send back here? (laughter)

Q. I don't think so, because there were several of them -- different sources. The reports in London are that you might visit there after the San Francisco conference.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I haven't even been to Hyde Park yet. I haven't got any plans. I will probably have to, as I intimated yesterday -- I may have to do some more traveling.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I really haven't got a plan.

Q. (continuing) --- sir, talking -- returning to questions relating to Yalta, could you tell us how long it might be expected that the reconstitution of the Polish government will require?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't had -- since I got back -- I haven't had anything from Mr. Harriman, so I don't know any more than you do.

Q. Sir, is it -- is it anticipated that it is possible that the new government might be formed in time to be represented at San Francisco?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know. I have no idea at all.

Q. Mr. President, is this Government withdrawing its recognition of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as independent governments?

THE PRESIDENT: That was not even discussed. I don't know.

Q. They are still recognized, aren't they?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better ask the State Department.

Q. Mr. President, has Ambassador Hurley returned to this country?

THE PRESIDENT: He is coming back, ---

Q. (interjecting) He is?

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, have you been apprised ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I think within -- today or tomorrow.

Q. Have you been apprised in your dispatches from Chungking of the announcement of the Generalissimo that he is going to convoke a constitutional assembly next November, and begin a broader form of government?

THE PRESIDENT: That is very interesting. I didn't know that. When did you hear that?

Q. It's in the morning paper from Chungking, March first. November 12th.

THE PRESIDENT: Was it announced?

Q. I believe so.

THE PRESIDENT: Very interesting.

Q. Any comment, sir, on the decision to hold a presidential election in Brazil?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) No. I did know that.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. You look very good, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #994
Executive Office of the President
March 9, 1945 -- 11.23 a.m., e.w.t.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only thing that I have got today is the daily report from the Red Cross on the Ohio floods. And the gist of it is that a great many people have been driven from their homes. Everybody, so far, is taken care of. They are the greatest wartime floods we have experienced. But everybody is on the job. The Red Cross and Federal agencies were on the way before the rivers left their banks. And it really depends on whether we get rain. Any additional rain might drive the waters higher and, of course, we can't tell what will happen then, but so far the situation is -- what's the word? -- under control.

Jonathan, read that over and see if there is anything in it that is serious or not, that should not be given out ---

MR. DANIELS: (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and then you can tack it up on the bulletin board for anybody ---

MR. DANIELS: (interjecting) All right, sir. Make it available.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

I think that's all.

Q. Mr. President, has the war in Germany moved to a point where you think it might end suddenly, or without any

warning?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that's a crystal ball question. Nothing to that.

Q. Mr. President, more directly on the German situation, have you seen Bob Murphy since he ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Not yet, No. He is going to see me tomorrow or the next day.

Q. Tomorrow. Have you got to the point where you are going to appoint the American member to the German Control Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I suppose I have been thinking about that for the last two or three months. Nothing further on it.

Q. The Army and Navy Journal was speculating on the possibility it might be probably Patterson of the War Department?

THE PRESIDENT: Speculation.

Q. Speculation. Would it be a military man, or a civilian?

THE PRESIDENT: Speculation. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, sir, is there anything you could tell us following your conversations yesterday with General Hurley ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) With who?

Q. General Hurley, about the political situation in China?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. We have just begun to

talk. He is coming back, and the General ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- General Hurley and General Wedemeyer.

Q. Mr. President, Senator Barkley said yesterday you wanted a -- I think he used the words "best manpower bill possible at the earliest possible moment." Could you give us an idea whether you would prefer the May-Bailey bill which is a modified "selective" bill, or the "ceiling" bill that the Senate passed yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: No. You know, I think the best thing for you to do is to read my Message to Congress on it -- the need for it. Anybody can make up their mind which bill comes closest to that Message. I think we do have to have some authority and not a purely volunteer system, because the volunteer system has been worked, and worked and worked. And the Message I sent on the -- not the theory but the fact, that we haven't brought in enough men. I am still shy of men.

Q. Thank you, sir.

Q. Mr. President, Admiral Nimitz said yesterday that the Joint Chiefs were now discussing the command setup that will be used in the Pacific for the final drive on Japan. Has any decision been reached yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No. He is lunching with me. You had better ask him after lunch. I want to know more about it.

Q. Do you think we will get an answer then, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I doubt it. (laughter)

Q. Is there anything you can tell us, Mr. President, yet, about Ed Flynn's mission?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I told you boys who were with me. And for the -- general national reasons, it's best not to talk about it in any paper at the present time.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any hope of seeing Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek fairly soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I don't, honestly, but you never can tell.

Q. Mr. President, have you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (adding) I might decide to this afternoon.

Q. What was that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. (interposing) Have you made up your mind, sir, whether you are going to go out to San Francisco to open the Conference, or to go later?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. Not yet. Sometime during the Conference. That's all I can tell you now.

Q. Mr. President, can you give us your reaction to Commander Stassen's address?

THE PRESIDENT: Reactions to what?

Q. Commander Stassen's address.

THE PRESIDENT: Address?

Q. Address on the radio the other night.

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't hear it.

Q. His speech.

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't hear it.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, could you tell us ---

Q. (continuing) Commander Stassen's speech.

THE PRESIDENT: I say maybe I knew there was a speech, but I haven't read it, or heard it.

Q. Can you tell us why Prime Minister Mackenzie King is arriving today?

THE PRESIDENT: He comes down all the time, either here or Hyde Park.

Q. Nothing special in this visit?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Can you tell us, sir, whether there is any significance in the fact that Admiral Nimitz, Admiral Halsey, General Wedemeyer, General Hurley are all here at this time?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose it's good flying weather. (laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #995
Executive Office of the President
March 13, 1945, 4.10 p.m., e.w.t.

(The Prime Minister of Canada, W. L. Mackenzie King, was a guest at this press conference)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I invited the Prime Minister, who has been here for the last few days, to come into our press conference today, explaining you would not question him, because the press conferences are -- as you all know -- are just as much for my information from the press, as they are for the information of the press from myself, or any visitor who is here.

But I did prepare a little statement which I think Jonathan (Daniels) has for you after -- mimeographed afterwards.

(reading): "During the Canadian Prime Minister's visit to Washington, Mr. King and the President discussed questions of general international interest, as well as those more specifically concerned with the relations between the two countries; relations which are as firm and friendly as ever."

And I brought him up to date on a thing that happened this morning, which was my reception of the American delegates, and our talking about accommodations and press accommodations, and so forth and so on.

(continuing reading): "Among other things, a survey was made of questions arising out of the recent Crimea Conference and likely to arise at the forthcoming San Francisco Conference. They discussed in part the place which Canada will occupy in the new international organization.

"The President and the Prime Minister also had an opportunity of discussing questions of international economic and trading policy which both their countries will have to face as soon as hostilities end. They agreed that the solution of these questions should be sought along bold and expansive lines, with a view to the removal of discriminations and the reduction of barriers to the exchange of goods between all countries. They recognized a common interest in working toward these objectives.

"It was felt that the United States and Canada, with their long experience of friendly relations and their high degree of economic interdependence, should meet the new problems that peace will bring in the same spirit of cooperation with the other United Nations that has sustained their common war effort."

I could go on for many paragraphs about that common interest, and the way we have handled the problems between the two sister nations side by side in the past. Of course, Mr. King and I are very, very old friends -- personal friends, as you know. But since he has been Prime Minister, we have developed that friendship into a practical way of handling common problems between the Dominion and the United States.

And I think those various things that have come up between us -- they have already received names, the Ogdensburg agreement, Hyde Park agreement -- I think that relations between Canada and the United States in the past ten years have been an outstanding example of what you can do by common consultation and laying one's own problems before the other fellow, which is an outstanding example of that spirit of which two countries that are neighbors and cousins, you might say, can get along to their mutual benefit.

Which is not in the copy which Jonathan will give you.

Outside of that, I don't think I have any news at all.

JIM WRIGHT: Mr. President, did the St. Lawrence come up in your discussions?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

JIM WRIGHT: Is there a disposition to forget about that, for the time being?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Oh, No.

JIM WRIGHT: I had understood that that agreement which was presented last time was going to be allowed to go by the board for a while?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We didn't discuss it. We have the same point of view, I think, Mr. King and I, that the St. Lawrence is a very great natural and national asset to both nations; and the time is going to come -- the quicker the better -- when it is developed for the mutual good of the two nations. Buffalo papers please copy. (laughter)

JIM WRIGHT (Buffalo News): Copy from us.

Q. Mr. President, on the basis of your discussions with the delegates this morning, and with the Prime Minister, can you give us anything that might be helpful to us in connection with the questions which you expect to arise at San Francisco?

THE PRESIDENT: We didn't talk about those questions at all this morning. We were talking about the physical arrangements entirely. And I think that they are planning, in general, to follow the methods that were used at the Mexico Conference, which seem to be pretty satisfactory.

And the Conference will be open to the press and the radio -- movies and stills. It's all right. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there has been some confusion as to how the freedom of action which is granted the individual American delegates is going to resolve into a common American viewpoint out at San Francisco, specifically the freedom of action about which Mr. Vandenberg has talked. Was that matter discussed here this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Could you tell us how they are going to resolve into an American viewpoint? Will it be a unit rule, or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I -- I don't honestly know. I don't think the question has come up. Stettinius hasn't said anything about it.

Q. Mr. President, have you decided when you are going to San Francisco, to open the San Francisco Conference

or go at the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I asked for advice on that this morning. Either the beginning or end.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I expect to hear.

Q. (continuing) --- do you know whether General O'Dwyer is going to run for Mayor? Did you and he discuss ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q. (continuing) --- his plans?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) No -- just what I read in the paper.

Q. Was that what you read in the paper, that you were going to support him against Mayor LaGuardia?

THE PRESIDENT: No. One paper was right and one was wrong. I only read it in two papers.

Q. Which paper was right? (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there is to be a meeting in New York in the near future to launch (Senator James M.) Mead on the gubernatorial draft again. Something you want to say about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I hadn't heard a thing about that.

Q. Mr. President, do you feel that the recent developments in Romania square with the Yalta declaration on liberated areas?

THE PRESIDENT: O my God! Ask the State Department. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there has been a good deal

of speculation, and otherwise, as to what the position of the various members of the Big Four (Three) were on the voting procedure question at Yalta -- I mean the -- both Dumbarton Oaks and the Crimea Conference. Could you clarify for us, to any extent, whether this final decision was or was not a victory for any participating nation, or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That -- that -- of course, that's the trouble with answering the question at all. People will line up and say that is a victory for Mr. Stalin, or for Mr. Churchill, or for me. I should say it was a common agreement. Well, that means that it wasn't a victory for anybody, because they were all agreed. Honestly agreed as being what -- what we all thought it was the best thing to do. In -- what shall we say? -- history, the question of who proposed it first is the -- is the smallest end of it. If anybody has a better idea, we would be glad to consider it.

Q. Mr. President, is it true that under the Yalta agreement on voting procedure that two of the Big Powers have the power to over-rule discussions on any proposal that might be brought up, not only force but anything else?

THE PRESIDENT: As I remember the thing -- the easiest way of putting it -- on everything that is procedural, not the actual use of force, you have to have seven out of eleven, or maybe six out of eleven. Don't say it's seven. It's a majority.

Q. Any seven, or do they have to have a certain number of the Big Powers?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Any seven?

THE PRESIDENT: Any seven. In other words, you can look into things, into anything you want, and go through all the preliminary procedures by a majority vote. You don't have to have unanimity at all -- the majority vote of the eleven. When it comes to -- oh, what do they call it? -- the use of power or sanctions, that requires a unanimous vote of the -- of the five larger nations.

MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, could you tell us about your conversation with Mr. (Senator Alben W.) Barkley on the Interim Civil Aviation Agreements?

THE PRESIDENT: Interims?

MAY CRAIG: Interim Civil Aviation Agreement, not the Convention you sent to the Capitol, but the Interim International Civil Aviation Agrements?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think that we go ahead on the interim government of a country which surrenders, on the principles that were announced. For instance, we have not yet made up the four zones of Germany -- the occupied zones. We are still at work on that. But we did say that France should have a zone. And then the only other thing that we all know is that during that period, the council -- allied council in wherever it is -- Berlin or somewhere else -- their decision will look after that interim period.

MAY CRAIG: I am sorry. That was not what I meant. I meant the Chicago Civil Aviation Agreements, one of which

was the Convention which came to Congress, but there was an Interim Agreement. There is a good deal of contention in the Foreign Relations Committee about it.

THE PRESIDENT: May, I don't know enough about it to answer that.

MAY CRAIG: I thought Mr. Barkley had come to see you about it?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MAY CRAIG: No?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Mr. President, have you received word as to who will be Mr. (Isador) Lubin's opposite number on the reparations commission?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I haven't heard at all.

Q. When will he go to Moscow?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose pretty soon, Pete (Brandt). I don't know -- I haven't heard. I saw him yesterday. He ought to be starting very soon.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to commit yourself on the subject of night baseball? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think that Clark Griffith gave you the right "dope." I am one of the fathers of night baseball, as you know, and I am all in favor of baseball so long as you don't have perfectly healthy people that could be doing more useful work in the war. I con- ---

Q. (interposing) Do you think within the -- pardon me.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I consider baseball a very good thing for the population during the war.

Q. Do you think within the definition, Mr. President, it would be possible for the big leagues to operate this year?

THE PRESIDENT: Why not? It may not be quite as good a team, but I would go out to see a baseball game played by a sandlot -- and so would most people.

Q. Mr. President, could you give us any inkling as to the difference in treatment to be accorded Austria as against Germany?

THE PRESIDENT: There is to be, as I remember it, an Allied council in -- in Austria -- in Vienna -- which will look after that end of things.

Q. Mr. President, is there to be any change in the status of Italy? I think the Italian Ambassador suggested that he was wanting to become a member of the United Nations.

THE PRESIDENT: There was an agreement the other day to give Italy certain things. I haven't seen it, and I couldn't tell you off-hand -- don't remember it -- what those items are. But apparently Italy is more satisfied in getting more authority over the internal management of things since this has come about. That is within the last two or three days.

Q. (simultaneously) Mr. President, ---

Q. (simultaneously) Thank you, Mr. President.

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What was it?

Q. I was going to ask about Leon Henderson. Is

he through ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, he is working. Going to keep on working. All right.

Q. Still working.

(copy of this press conference
for Prime Minister Mackenzie
King)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #996
Executive Office of the President
March 16, 1945 -- 11.10 a.m., e.w.t.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only thing I have got is the setting up of a committee -- I think you know about it -- but this is the formal letter ---

MR. DANIELS: (interposing) That's already been announced.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. DANIELS: That was announced before.

THE PRESIDENT: That was announced.

MR. DANIELS: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Assistant Secretary (Will L.) Clayton; Shipping -- Food -- W.P.B. as well as the War Department. Marvin Jones from War Food; Captain (L. H.) Strauss from the Navy -- that they will meet together personally, attending any meetings. For the purpose of the committee is to examine all the related factors that pertain to the capabilities of the United States to export items for the support of the war other than direct military Lend-Lease commitments.

Well, the reason for that, as you know, is largely food, but not entirely food; and this committee is to act as a clearing house more than anything else.

I ought to stop and let somebody ask me a question, because it is -- I'll be asked by somebody, I don't know who,

about starving this country to death. (laughter) And then I would have to ask him what paper -- what paper they represent -- what are their orders -- because that makes a lot of difference, you know.

There is a tendency -- and I think this had better go off the record entirely -- there is a tendency on the part of certain -- not newspapers but "papers" to scare the people. They forget that we are still at war.

And the easiest way to illustrate it is to ask a question of this supposititious person who asked me the question: suppose we are -- in the world supply -- suppose we are short of sugar all over the world. Well, we are <u>not</u>, I am taking an illustration which isn't -- isn't a good illustration; but something else, something that everybody uses. And suppose we find that by cutting our consumption in this country, you and I, ten percent -- well, I thinkwe would live. But, by doing -- by <u>not</u> doing it, if we didn't cut here, there would be some country on the other side where people are really starving -- have been starving for some time now, not only malnutrition, but the worst kind of hardship.

Take -- well, take for instance, the example of Holland, which is a very bad case. Some -- some countries that need it a lot more than we do. Well, there is a tendency among the papers -- an inclination -- to make an issue out of that, that they would oppose our cutting down on our consumption, and thereby let the people of some other country starve.

I think it's a question -- the country will be all

right on it when it is explained, but I rather object to the time wasted in explaining a thing like that. We are decent people in this country. The owners of these papers are not decent people, if they take that line.

And the thing -- the thing is a matter of compromise, of course, doing the best thing we can as a matter of -- what? -- justice -- not exactly the word I want -- of decency. The war is not won yet. We have got to tighten our belts -- this that and the other thing -- before the war is won, probably -- the German war and the Japanese war.

And I think the country will back up the idea of keeping some people alive, by continuing certain restrictions that have been in effect, or adding others. I can't yet bring myself to think that we have suffered very greatly in this country, compared with some other countries. I don't think we are going to suffer very greatly. But, as a matter -- as I say -- of justice, we are going to solve these problems in the best way we can.

Q. Is all that discussion off the record, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. Can we use it for background, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Can we use it for background?

THE PRESIDENT: Use it for background, but I was talking entirely informally.

Q. (interposing) Well, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And the reason I would rather have it left off, for background, is that I don't want to bring the newspapers into it at all.

Q. Well, may we attribute this to you?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. Attribute it to the attitude of the Administration, and of a large majority of the American people. (laughter)

JIM WRIGHT: Mr. President, I think it would be a good deal more effective if we could say this was your view. I -- honestly, I don't see where the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Leave out the stuff, Jim, about the papers, and the rest you can use.

Q. (interjecting) Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I guess that's all right.

Q. Mr. President, have you had any response yet from Chiang Kai-shek about the possibility of a meeting at San Francisco with him?

THE PRESIDENT: He is one of the inviters. China is one of the host nations, as I remember it.

Q. I think the question was, Mr. President, have you heard when the Generalissimo may come to San Francisco?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Mr. President, are you going to see Commander (Harold E.) Stassen today, or in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: I think ---

VOICE: (interposing) Today.

MR. DANIELS: It's today.

THE PRESIDENT: Today. As a matter of fact, he is the first person I see after you all leave the room.

Q. Does the conference have a bearing on the San Francisco meeting, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- but I would ---

Q. (interjecting) Pardon me.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I'd go a little slow in guessing, because I think it's chiefly about whether, between now and then, he'll have time to go back to his command.

Q. Personal problems, rather than ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, yes.

Q. (continuing) --- the Conference?

Q. Mr. President, yesterday you saw General Bill Donovan. Is there anything you can tell us about your talk with him?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing, Jim (Wright). Just clearing up some routine matters -- nothing of importance.

Q. You didn't take up this proposed super-spy system, as they call it in some of the other "papers" that you referred to? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. That was of such importance that he never even mentioned it. Neither did I.

Q. I see.

Q. Mr. President, in this current Hollywood

motion picture strike situation, the field producers are caught between two labor boards and two A. F. of L. groups. (laughter from the President) There have been numerous suggestions that you might take some action to end the stalemate. Do you plan to go into that?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't done a thing. In fact, I have read only the newspaper headlines. I haven't even read the stories.

Q. Mr. President, I wonder if you would care to comment on these published reports as to the social problems that reputedly are following in the wake of the curfew, in such places as New York, because large numbers of service people are on the streets after midnight with no respectable place to go, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't been there. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there have been new rumors of peace feelers from Germany. One of them was supposed to have come via Sweden.

THE PRESIDENT: I saw that this morning.

Q. There have been reports, too, that Von Rundstedt had been relieved of his command, and was supposed to have made some armistice proposals to our armies. Can you give us any illumination on those reports?

THE PRESIDENT: We have nothing here at all, and I think the British Foreign Office said they heard nothing of it.

Q. In that connection, Mr. President, can you now

throw any light on your conversations with Mr. (Robert) Murphy? He has been here for almost two weeks, and we assume that you have been talking about the problems of German occupation.

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think I've only seen Bob once. Came to lunch the other day, and I reminisced about my boyhood in Germany. That was all.

Q. Have you now settled the question of the -- precisely what zone American troops will occupy?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet, No. In fact, I am glad you mentioned that, because it is something I want to ask about. I haven't heard of it since Yalta.

Q. What is holding it up, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Don't know anything about it. I haven't asked about it since I got back.

Q. Mr. President, do whatever reasons which have prevented publication of the Italian armistice terms still prevail?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better ask the State Department. I don't really know what is holding it up.

Q. They always refer us to the War Department, which refers us to the White House, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What? (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there has been a rumor that you were considering inviting Mackenzie King to be temporary chairman of the San Francisco Conference?

THE PRESIDENT: There will be a lot more of those between now and the 25th. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, since Yalta a new government

has been set up in Romania where Premier Groza describes that government as representative ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think that one's so ---

Q. (continuing) --- of the Romanian people.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- catchy, you had better ask the State Department too. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, has there been any decision yet on the new command setup for the Pacific?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Do you expect there will be one soon, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (adding) I think it depends entirely on the kind of operations.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #997
Executive Office of the President
March 20, 1945 -- 3.07 p.m., e.w.t. (one hour earlier)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the most important thing I have is setting up an inquiry into the new question of guaranteed wage plans. As some of you know, I have been talking about it for ten years. In other words, what might be called the annual -- annual "take home" a person can make under our wage system. And it is only lately that the trade unions have become interested in the question. Therefore, it's new.

And I wrote, last December, to Justice Byrnes about a study of it, and he took it up with Chairman Davis of the War Labor Board, and submitted a report, suggesting that a study should be conducted by a specially appointed commission charged with the duty of examining into the experience which industry and labor have thus far had with these plans. I will give you a copy of this when you go out.

And therefore, Justice Byrnes's advisory commission has been asked if they will undertake the plan and start right away to do it. Several of the facts have been studied before by the Department of Labor -- quite a lot to go on. Industries differ very much. An annual -- annual wage is relatively simple in some industries, and exceedingly difficult in other industries. You will know more about it when this commission reports.

I think that's about all I have got.

Q. Mr. President, Mayor LaGuardia has in effect overruled Justice Byrnes, so far as New York City is concerned, and so far as the midnight curfew is concerned. Do you have any comment to make as to who you think is right in the controversy?

THE PRESIDENT: Better ask Justice Byrnes. It has already been given out. It was done with my approval.

Q. Does that mean, Mr. President, you would stick by the midnight curfew?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Does that mean that you think we ought to stick by the midnight curfew?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will put it this way. Most of the country has accepted the request. The City of New York has not accepted it. And I was in favor of the original request. Of course, it isn't an order. I think that's about all there is to say.

Q. Mr. President, does the Government have any plans for preventing the stoppage of work in the coal mines, should the operators and the union not reach agreement by March 31st?

THE PRESIDENT: I am sorry to have to say that that really is an "iffy" question.

Q. The word "if" wasn't there, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: It was cleverly done, I will say that. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, in connection with manpower

legislation, can you say whether you would believe in penalties being imposed or applied against workers who refused to take or stay in essential jobs, as well as penalties applied to employers who violated employment ceilings?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't you think it would depend on the case a good deal? What we are trying to get is manpower, in the most useful way. We have to do it, or else ---

Q. (interposing) Can't hear you back here.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- jeopardize the war.

Q. Thank you, sir.

Q. Could you discuss the food situation, if you please, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I read an awful lot of -- lot of stuff. I don't think I am ready to answer that yet, because the food situation depends largely on the person who writes the story. I could write both sides of it. I think the country ought to know. I will try to have something by Friday on it, as to what has happened to food. It's worth analyzing.

Q. Will that -- your plan is for Friday, sir? Is that a statement you plan at the press conference, or a Message to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I thought I would just talk.

Q. Yes. I wondered if it involved a Message?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Do you think, sir, that a Congressional investigation would be advisable and helpful?

THE PRESIDENT: That's a trick question.

Q. It's a what?

THE PRESIDENT: It's a trick question.

Q. It wasn't meant as ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I know it -- (laughing) -- but it's tricky, because I don't -- I don't like to criticise Congress. I feel a little bit about it -- I think you had better put this off the record -- what can we find out about it that we don't know already? I honestly don't know. There are a good many people in the Government who can tell about the whole thing in half-an-hour.

Of course, I, having been in a legislative body, have a little bit the feeling that if I ever inclined to do what I have seen other people do, I would pass a resolution that hereafter, in America, all food in the country is going to be just twice what it is now. Resolve it. I don't know what good it is going to do. Maybe they will find something useful. I would be delighted if they did.

Q. (interposing) Well, Mr. President, I would like ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) The old thing in the Bible about making two blades of "sheep" grow where one grew before. It's a little like that.

Q. Mr. President, I would like to, if I may, go back to this curfew question. Does the Administration, you or Justice Byrnes, intend to do anything to try to bring New York City back in line with the midnight curfew?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what can we do?

Q. There's a lot of sanctions that they could bring in -- bring to bear, I suppose, on manpower ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) What?

Q. (continuing) --- everything from gas and lights. That's the way they have always talked before.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't thought about it.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #998
Held in the Little White House at Warm Springs, Georgia
Thursday, April 5, 1945 -- 2.00 p.m., c.w.t.

(Sergio Osmena, President of the Philippine Commonwealth, was present at this press conference)

THE PRESIDENT: President Osmena and I have been having a nice talk, and I thought you could come up and write a story for release when we get back to Washington. It may be in another week or ten days.

The President and I talked about many things, and it so happened that while we were together this morning, the announcement about the fall of the Japanese cabinet was told. It is a piece of very good news. Outside of that, we have been talking about a great many things to do with the Philippines.

President Osmena is just back from the Philippines itself, and he tells me about the terrible destruction in Manila -- about three-fourths of the city has been destroyed. We talked about -- wait until I get this memorandum, just to use as background -- first was the military campaign and the possibility of intensifying it. There are still a great many Japs in pockets in a number of places all through the Islands. We have not been to Mindanao, have we? Eventually, we will get to Mindanao where President Osmena says he has some very good guerillas fighting. Our joint forces are working up

toward the center of the Islands. That is partly Morro country, so there we get a great many Morros working together with the American and Filipino forces.

Then we talked about more current problems, after the Islands are cleared of the Japanese. We are absolutely unchanged in our policy of two years ago, for immediate Filipino independence.

That brings up a great many things, like relief, the rebuilding of communications, roads, highways, bridges, and so forth, so as to get civilized life running in a normal way. I don't know yet -- I am not ready to announce dates, because nobody knows when the country as a whole will be ready to go ahead with the distribution of relief without being fired on. The relief probably ought to be undertaken by us on a perfectly definite plan. I put it to President Osmena this morning.

There are certain things which we have a definite responsibility on, which was not the fault of the Filipino people that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, but they have been terribly hurt by the result of the war. And in the process of taking the Island back, we obviously ought to restore certain damages like highway bridges, or tunnels, or highways themselves destroyed by the Japanese, and those practical things.

There are other things which are not immediately practical, in one sense. For example, in Manila, the famous old Cathedral -- which is one of the oldest cathedrals in the Far East. I think this country will want, as a gesture of

sentimentality, to restore the Cathedral of St. Dominic. Other things, like wrecks and harbors with Jap ships, it certainly is our duty to take those wrecks and blow them up, so commerce at different ports will be able to function again.

Then we discussed all kinds of things on the question of rehabilitation in regard to trade. We have not yet gotten from the Congress a definite statement as to the tariff question. After 1898, we gave to the Spaniards, who defeated the party at that time, ten years to work out the tariff problem; and we have been under a tariff ever since, which has been fixed from time to time by the Congress of the United States after commissions in those cases have sat. I don't think we can treat the Filipinos any worse than we did the Spaniards on problems of that kind. My thought is we should maintain the present tariffs between the Philippines and the United States after they get their independence. In their present status, give them a chance to turn around before we get a new tariff, and we ought to consider the economic needs of the Filipinos as a whole.

It seems obvious that we will be more or less responsible for security in all the Pacific waters. As you take a look at the different places captured by us, from Guadalcanal, the north coast of New Guinea, and then the Marianas and other islands gradually to the southern Philippines, and then into Luzon and north to Iwo Jima, it seems obvious the only danger is from Japanese forces; and they must be prevented, in the same way Germany is prevented, from setting up a military

force which would start off again on a chapter of aggression.

So that means the main bases have to be taken away from them. They have to be policed externally and internally. And as a part of the western Pacific situation, it is necessary to throw them out of any of their mandated ports, which they immediately violated almost as soon as they were mandated, by fortifying these islands.

And we were talking about what base or bases will be necessary, not for us nationally, but for us in the world, to prevent anything from being built up by the Japanese, and at the same time give us a chance to operate in those waters. The Philippine waters occupy a very large part of the Pacific Ocean, and undoubtedly we accept a mandate to keep security in that part of the world. The Filipinos and ourselves would in propinquity maintain adequate naval and air bases to take care of that section of the Pacific.

Then we talked about American technical assistance. All of this will be a special mission to keep us in touch, with all of this being predicated on the permanent setting up of a Philippine independent government. We talked about the time, but nothing was decided as to dates. It all depends on how soon the Japanese are cleared in the Islands. This autumn, we hope, which would be prior to the date of July 1946, set by the Congress.

Now, what else was there?

Then, of course, we discussed all sorts of important things which are detailed really, such as the question of

the redemption of emergency notes, as we do now in so many places, including Italy and Morocco -- something which the soldiers and sailors can use to buy anything they want. Of course, there is very little left to buy. We have had to issue a kind of emergency note for the Armed Forces, to tide them over, in case they wanted to buy some things to send home.

Q. Mr. President, on the question of the Japanese mandates that you say will be taken away from them, who will be the controlling government in those mandates, the United States?

THE PRESIDENT: I would say the United Nations. Or -- it might be called -- the world, which has been much abused now, will have a chance to prevent any more abuse.

Q. Mr. President, aren't the Philippines under a sort of preferential tariff as compared with other nations?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that istrue.

Q. A lot of articles are on the free list like sugar, etcetera, aren't they?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. My idea is to continue that, and give them a few years to get things worked out in a peaceful world, so we can get a permanent tariff treaty with the Filipinos. A thing like that takes time.

Q. Could you say anything further about the technical setup of harbor control plan on the mandates?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think the nations as a whole have given it a thought. It is too early.

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned the collapse of the Japanese cabinet. Do you think there is any connection between that and the Russian renunciation of the non-aggression pact with Japan?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't know. I would get into what you boys call the speculative field if I tried to answer.

Q. It certainly didn't make the Japanese feel any better.

THE PRESIDENT: No. It is not very much out of line, which I would have prognosticated if I were a prognosticator.

Q. You knew the facts so well you didn't have to prognosticate. (laughter)

Q. President Osmena, are you going to San Francisco?

PRESIDENT OSMENA: No. I am going back to Manila. We have a delegation going, however, with General Carlos P. Romulo heading the delegation.

THE PRESIDENT: You see, from the legalistic point of view, the Filipinos have been headed for nearly ten years toward a definite step: a date for independence, which has not arrived. They are leaving it to my discretion -- the setting of the date -- at any time between now and July 1946. What I hope the real story is -- I hope to set it long before that.

Q. You think you can set a date before all organized resistance ends in the Philippines?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. When I say organized resistance there is a chance that for years -- several years -- there

may be organized resistance on the part of the Japanese troops, organized only in having an objective of killing Filipinos or Americans, and working against us in the form of guerillas. It may take several years to do that. I wouldn't call it organized resistance, except that you have to watch your step when you go into the woods.

Q. Mr. President, do you think we will have a chance to talk with you again on other subjects before you go, such as the three-to-one vote?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will see me several times before I go. Some of the boys cannot get their facts straight. It would really be fun if I went on the air and simply read the things which have appeared in the paper. Of course, you know that it is not true factually.

Q. There certainly have been as many different interpretations as I have ever seen on anything.

THE PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact, this plea for votes was done in a very quiet way.

Stalin said to me -- and this is the essence of it -- "You know there are two parts of Russia that have been completely devastated. Every building is gone, every farm house, and there are millions of people living in these territories -- and it is very important from the point of view of humanity -- and we thought, as a gesture, they ought to be given something as a result of this coming victory. They have had very little civilization. One is the Ukraine, and the other is White Russia. We all felt -- not any of us coming from there in

the government -- we think it would be grand to give them a vote in the Assembly. In these two sections, millions have been killed, and we think it would be very heartening -- would help to build them up -- if we could get them a vote in the Assembly."

He asked me what I thought.

I said to Stalin, "Are you going to make that request of the Assembly?"

He said, "I think we should."

I said, "I think it would be all right -- I don't know how the Assembly will vote."

He said, "Would you favor it?"

I said, "Yes, largely on sentimental grounds. If I were on the delegation -- which I am not -- I would probably vote 'yes.'"

That has not come out in any paper.

He said, "That would be the Soviet Union, plus White Russia, plus the Ukraine."

Then I said, "By the way, if the Conference in San Francisco should give you three votes in the Assembly -- if you get three votes -- I do not know what would happen if I don't put in a plea for three votes in the States." And I said, "I would make the plea for three votes and insist on it."

It is not really of any great importance. It is an investigatory body only. I told Stettinius to forget it. I am not awfully keen for three votes in the Assembly. It is the little fellow who needs the vote in the Assembly. This business about the number of votes in the Assembly does not

make a great deal of difference.

Q. They don't decide anything, do they?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

By the way, this is all off the record.

(taken by Dorothy Brady)